

هكذا من الأصل

How free is the world's press? Page 10

## Mr Heath misses bomb by minutes

en minutes before Mr Heath arrived at his house in Wilton Street, Knightsbridge, last night, a bomb was thrown on to a first floor balcony window, damaging the three-storey building. Two women staff in the house were hurt. The Opposition leader had been returning from Broadstairs, Kent, where he conducted the annual carol concert.

## Balcony blast

Neville Hodgkinson, a bomb was thrown on to the balcony of Mr Heath's house in Wilton Street, Knightsbridge, about 10 minutes before he had finished his carol concert at Broadstairs, Kent. The ground floor of the three-storey Georgian house was damaged. After he had a 10-minute inspection of the house, Mr Heath's car was driven to the house, where he was in the house when the bomb exploded, but neither he nor any of the other members of the party were hurt.

The attack came at 9 pm, an hour and a half after Mr Heath left Broadstairs at 7.30 pm. The bomb was thrown into the house from a balcony. It exploded in the room where Mr Heath was sitting. The explosion was heard in the street. Mr Heath was in the house when the bomb exploded, but neither he nor any of the other members of the party were hurt.

Two weeks ago a bomb exploded at the Talbot public house in Little Chester Street, 200 yards away from Mr Heath's house. Five people were injured. A bomb was thrown at the Talbot when a bomb exploded in the window. The bomb was thrown at the Talbot when a bomb exploded in the window. The bomb was thrown at the Talbot when a bomb exploded in the window.

Stalk hints at deferred oil payments scheme  
Kuwait announced on Saturday that it now effectively owned the whole of the Kuwait Oil Co in war cost share, and that it would nationalize the company. The Saudi Arabian oil minister said that producing oil might accept deferred payments for 25 per cent of crude oil on a long-term basis.

President Ford warns the CIA against spying within US  
President Ford said yesterday he would not tolerate spy operations by the Central Intelligence Agency within the United States. He was responding to allegations in The New York Times that the agency had spied on American citizens on a large scale during the Nixon administration.

Stratford shut  
Stratford is closed today because of an unofficial 24-hour strike of 500 ground staff, and Christmas holiday flights in and out of the airport have been halted. His yesterday failed to avert a stoppage, which is to include a claim for extra pay for working near London.

Kingfield sold  
Kingfield will continue at Luggidale Park, which has been sold to the Ladbroke firm of booksellers for about £500,000, and the arrangements are in hand for 23 days of racing next year.

Oil funds plea  
A group of monetary experts says time is running out for a world community to avert a crisis over soaring oil prices. Consumers and producers have a common interest in cooperating, the group trust to suggest an investment trust to channel surplus oil revenue into productive use.

Leader page 21  
Letters: On Britain and the Middle East from the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews; on tax exemptions for Jews; on the Corcoran Garden; on the Rainbow; on the 12th Anniversary; on the 12th Anniversary; on the 12th Anniversary.

Home News 2, 4  
European News 6, 7  
Overseas News 6, 7  
Agriculture 12  
Appointments 13  
Arts 13  
Books 14-18  
Business 12  
Chess 12  
Church 12

Home News	2, 4
European News	6, 7
Overseas News	6, 7
Agriculture	12
Appointments	13
Arts	13
Books	14-18
Business	12
Chess	12
Church	12

## Holy Land pilgrims in grenade attack

From Moshe Brilliant  
Tel Aviv, Dec 22  
A terrorist grenade lobbed at a busload of American Christian pilgrims in the biblical town of Bethany this morning injured Miss Dejean Replogle, aged 16, of Jacksonville, Florida. She was one of 17 congregants of the Main Street Baptist Church, of Jacksonville, on a Christmas tour with their pastor, Dr E. C. McDaniel.

A 27-year-old Arab who was repairing a car near the scene was also hurt slightly and was sent home after hospital treatment. Israel forces surrounded the bus, built on the ruins of Bethany, and conducted an alley by alley search, detaining 20 Arab suspects for interrogation. The grenade apparently was thrown from a rooftop over a courtyard abutting the Jerusalem-Jericho road.

Dr McDaniel said Miss Replogle was out of danger after surgery in Jerusalem and had asked him to urge the group to proceed with the tour as planned. The pastor said the group had met in the hotel and had already decided to go. They arrived on Thursday for an eight-day tour, including Christmas in Bethlehem.

Bethany, where the assault occurred, is mentioned in the New Testament as the village where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. The tour of the Holy Land from Jericho to Jerusalem stopped there and the pilgrims visited the tomb of Lazarus. Just as the driver turned on the engine to continue towards Jerusalem, the blast sent metal splinters tearing through the side of the bus. Miss Replogle, who was sitting halfway down the vehicle, was hit in the leg.

Paul Martin writes from Beirut: The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) warned Christmas pilgrims against visiting the Holy Land because of its "mounting campaign" in Israel-occupied territory. The warning came after the grenade attack on the bus carrying the tourists on the bus carrying the tourists on the bus carrying the tourists.

The attack on the bus was the third attack by Palestinian terrorists in the past 10 days. It came only 48 hours after a powerful bomb rocked Ben Hurin Street in West Jerusalem, injuring 12 people. Two Palestinian guerrilla groups claimed responsibility for the explosion.

The PLO put its name to the grenade attack in a communique issued by WAZA, the official PLO news agency. It gave no details in previous claims of this sort. The PLO has attributed the attacks to its internal command—the name it gives for its cells operating inside Israel and occupied territory.

Hardly a day goes by without claims by the PLO that its squads inside Israel and in the occupied territories are installing attacks on Israeli installations. In many cases there is no confirmation from official Israeli sources and some are undoubtedly propaganda. However, it is clear that in the past month the guerrillas have managed to revive their long period of inactivity.

Tel Aviv, Dec 22.—Israel and Lebanon have agreed on a six-week border truce to protect the olive harvest. United Nations sources said today. Under the ceasefire, which has already gone into effect, Israel has suspended artillery bombardments of the region.—Reuter.

Arab ministers to meet, page 6



A photograph taken by the Duchess of Gloucester showing the Duke holding their son, Lord Ulster, who was born prematurely on Oct 24.

## Nine deaths caused by skiing in danger area

Kitzbühel, Dec 22.—Nine skiers were killed by an avalanche on a slope above the Austrian ski resort of Kitzbühel yesterday. Officials said today that the victims had been skiing in an area flagged off as dangerous.

The officials told a press conference that temperatures above freezing point had threatened to loosen the snow. Thirteen skiers were caught by the avalanche near the Habakom ridge. Four of them were killed. The bodies of the other nine skiers were recovered.

Dr Otto Schinapp, of the Tiroler Avaranche Warning Service, said that temperatures near the mountain top rose to about 2°C (36°F) yesterday morning.

The instructors were inspecting the area served by a new ski lift which had opened only that morning. It was not clear whether they or the German family had entered the danger zone first.

Survivors included Kaspar Schroll, aged 16, the brother of the Austrian international skier, Fraulein Brigitte Schroll, and Herr Josef Grober, the leader of the Aschau school of the survivors recovering in hospital in Kitzbühel, said: "It was all so quick. I heard a crash, then my husband, who was standing less than two metres from me suddenly disappeared. He was suddenly engulfed quickly from the snow by another skier."

More than 50 people have been killed by avalanches in the Austrian Alps in the past two years, more than half of them West-Germans.

In the country's worst snow-disaster in 1954, avalanches near Bludenz in western Austria, killed 80 people in two days.—Reuter.

## Tories may challenge £4m Benn grant

By Our Political Correspondent  
While Mr Benn, the Secretary of State for Industry, continued to defend his decision to authorize a government grant of £4m to the Merseyside workers' cooperative, which has taken over the former Fisher-Bendix plant at Kirkby, Liverpool, Conservative leaders were discussing how best they can challenge the Government in Parliament over what they call "this latest example of gross misuse of public money".

Mr Michael Heseltine, Opposition spokesman on industry, said there were normal trade unionists' instructions to resist that procedure of fairness with a system of personal ministerial judgments that had no relationship to any precedent, but only with his political aspirations. "The resources supplied for inefficient and uneconomic operation are misleading to the employees concerned, encourage others to follow these illegal precedents, commit national resources to wasteful projects, and create a growing sense of injustice among the overwhelming majority of hard-working, law-abiding citizens who totally fail to understand why creeping militancy should attract government support at their expense."

Mr Benn was, of course, acting under an Act of Parliament, passed during the time of the Conservative Government, and he was quick to point out yesterday that he was not bound to accept the advice of the Industrial Development Advisory Board, appointed by the previous government.

Interviewed by the BBC radio programme "The World This Week", Mr Benn said of the board: "In most cases I find their recommendations are helpful, but democracy means that the decisions are ultimately made by ministers and ministers are accountable for what they do."

He said the Fisher-Bendix plant had been in the hands of six different companies since 1961. Many of the products made at Kirkby had been transferred elsewhere.

The people who have suffered throughout this period have been the workers at the plant, they were threatened with redundancy in the summer, they came forward with constructive ideas and tried to find an answer. The Government appointed consultants and a scheme was put up. Then the workers a chance to see what they could do for themselves. Having provided the money, the Government would monitor the progress of the plant.

Mr Benn said: "I was almost blinded with anger when I heard it. The way in which it was done gives the impression that backbench MPs assent to this sort of decision. We have reminded the Prime Minister of his commitment to open government. We have urged that in future any such matters should be discussed by the Parliamentary Labour Party and made subject to questioning by elected MPs."

On top salaries, Mr Cryer said: "It is wrong that the greatest amount of money were announced as parliamentary written replies, which are more than bits of paper and cannot be challenged in Parliament," Mr Cryer said. "Our letter was sent before the top salaries issue was announced, and that makes the situation even worse. I was almost blinded with anger when I heard it."

## Labour MPs protest to Mr Wilson on Commons 'gagging'

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent  
After the furious way in which the Government released the Boyle review body's findings on top salaries and Mr Wilson's decisions upon it, when most MPs had left Westminster on Friday for the Christmas recess, 30 Labour backbenchers yesterday signed a letter of protest to the Prime Minister.

Most of the signatories belong to the Tribune group, which led the revolt against the Government's defence programme a week ago and caused Mr Mellish, the Government Chief Whip, to offer his resignation. They complain that the Government is more and more authoritarian in its decisions by using the parliamentary written answer device, which means that ministers cannot be challenged in the Commons.

Mr G. R. Cryer, Labour MP for Keighley, who sponsored the letter, said that came very close to gagging MPs. "This is government by fiat, or by the back door, no less," he said. "It renders MPs absolutely impotent. It is a general attack, or a very important decision they make."

Mr Cryer cited four issues that had been announced as Commons written replies in the past few days. They were increased charges for school meals, higher petrol prices, teachers' salaries, and top salaries. "All of these are matters of the greatest moment and were announced as parliamentary written replies, which are more than bits of paper and cannot be challenged in Parliament," Mr Cryer said. "Our letter was sent before the top salaries issue was announced, and that makes the situation even worse. I was almost blinded with anger when I heard it."

## 77 feared killed as Venezuelan airliner explodes

Caracas, Dec 22.—A Venezuelan DC9 airliner with 77 people on board exploded in mid-air and crashed today shortly after taking off from Maturin airport, about 300 miles east of Caracas. Airline officials feared that all on board the Aerovias Venezolanas flight from Ciudad Bolivar to Caracas, with a stop at Maturin, had been killed.

The pilot had reported engine trouble and was trying to make an emergency landing when the aircraft crashed about 20 miles outside Maturin, the officials said.—UPI.

## Ten bodies found in Iceland snow disaster

Reykjavik, Dec 22.—Rescue workers dug through mounds of snow today, searching for two people still missing in an avalanche that hit the Icelandic east coast fishing town of Neaustadur on Friday, taking 10 lives. Frogmen also searched the sea for bodies.

The bodies of six men, two women, and two children have been recovered. Mr Hallgrímsson, the Prime Minister, who visited the scene of the disaster today, came to the town in a virtually cut-off by snow-blocked roads. AP.

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### Richard Ellis

## Muller broadcast explains step towards détente in southern Africa

From Michael Knipe  
Cape Town, Dec 22  
South Africa's move towards détente in southern Africa would not be confined to the proposed negotiated settlement of the Rhodesian question, Dr Hilgard Muller, the Foreign Minister, said in a radio broadcast tonight. The latest developments (presumably the Rhodesian) would strengthen the hands of other African leaders seeking peaceful solutions rather than confrontation.

## Rhodesia forces get together with guerrillas

Salisbury, Dec 22.—Some members of Rhodesia's security forces and a group of guerrillas laid down their arms briefly last week and discussed the ceasefire, a Government spokesman confirmed today.

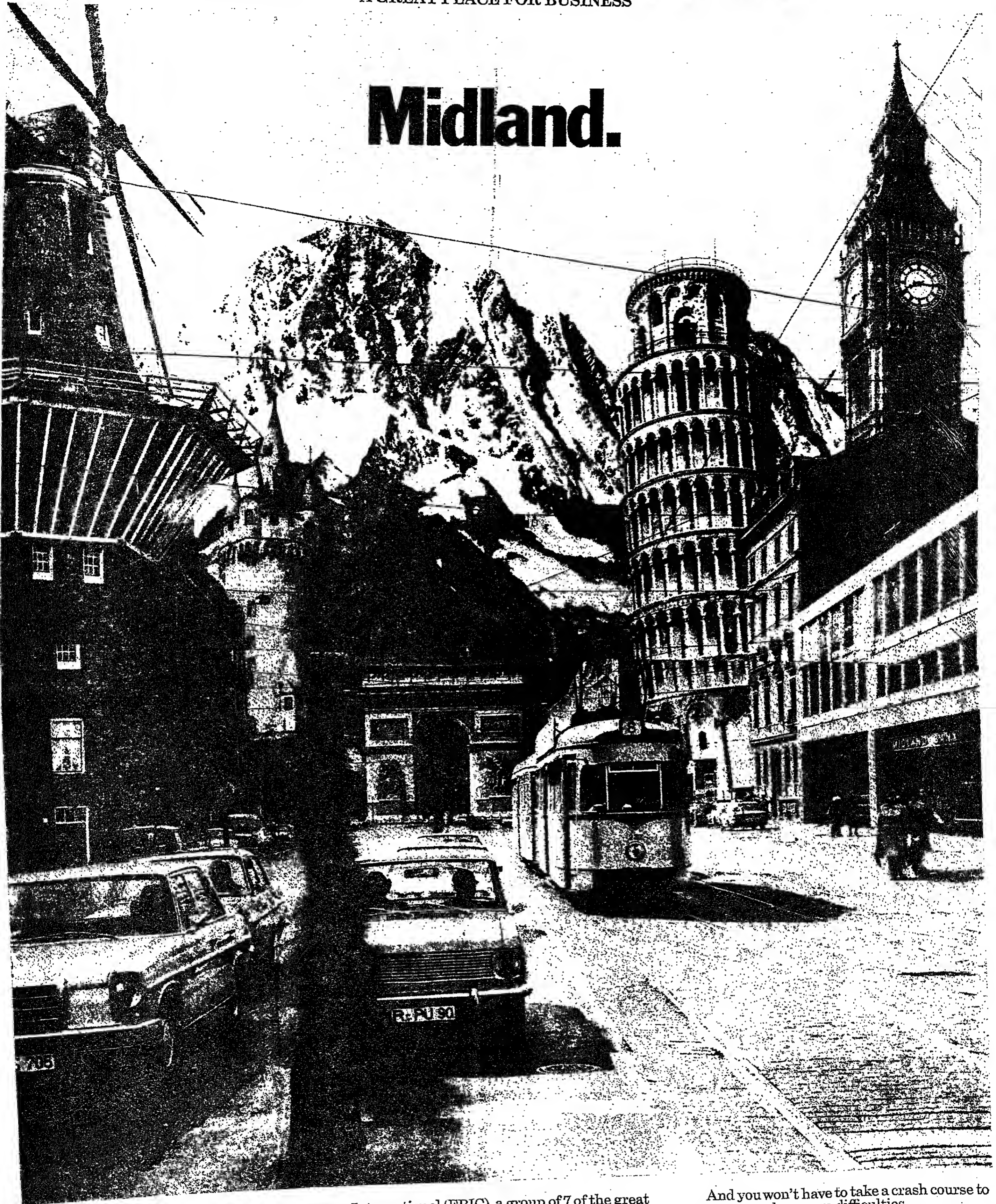
## Queen to spend holiday in six-bedroom farmhouse

From Our Correspondent  
King's Lynn  
The Queen, with other members of the Royal Family, is to spend four weeks living in a six-bedroom farmhouse on the Sandringham royal estate. She moved into Wood Farm, Wotton, two miles from Sandringham, on Saturday with the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward. It was announced yesterday.



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# SOUTH AFRICAN SPORTS NEWS

South African Sportsmen and women had a banner year in 1974. They won many world titles in Golf and internal sporting activities experienced a boom with a marked increase in multi-racial meetings in sports such as Boxing, Cycling, Athletics, Rugby, Tennis, Soccer, Squash, Hockey, Cricket, Weightlifting, etc.

When South African sportsmen are deprived of international competition, all of our sportsmen and women of all races are affected. Our thanks to the hundreds of free-world sportsmen, some of whom are shown on this page, who share our desire to remove politics from sports.

We believe that sport should be played by everyone regardless of race, colour or creed.

The Committee for Fairness in Sport, which is an independent non-governmental group of sportsmen, sponsors this message in the interest of reporting the facts, and not the fiction, of South African sport.



**RUGBY:** The fabulous British Lions break away with the South African Leopards team in pursuit. Wearing the sweatband at the back of the scrum is successful tour Captain Willie John McBride.



**TENNIS:** Arthur Ashe, U.S.A., and Tom Okker, Holland, are pictured in action together at Ellis Park Centre, Johannesburg. Both of these great international stars are regular visitors to South Africa.



**GOLF:** Gary Player, South Africa, is pictured in action during a golf tournament. Recently Gary sponsored 120 holes to the U.S.A. and Australia.



**ATHLETICS:** Ewald Bonzet and Titus Mmamabolo pictured sharing a moment of exhaustion after coming first and second to the 5000 metres at an international Athletics Meeting held in South Africa, in April, 1974.



**SPECTATORS:** All over the world spectators are the same as these South Africans watching a tense struggle being played out on the field.

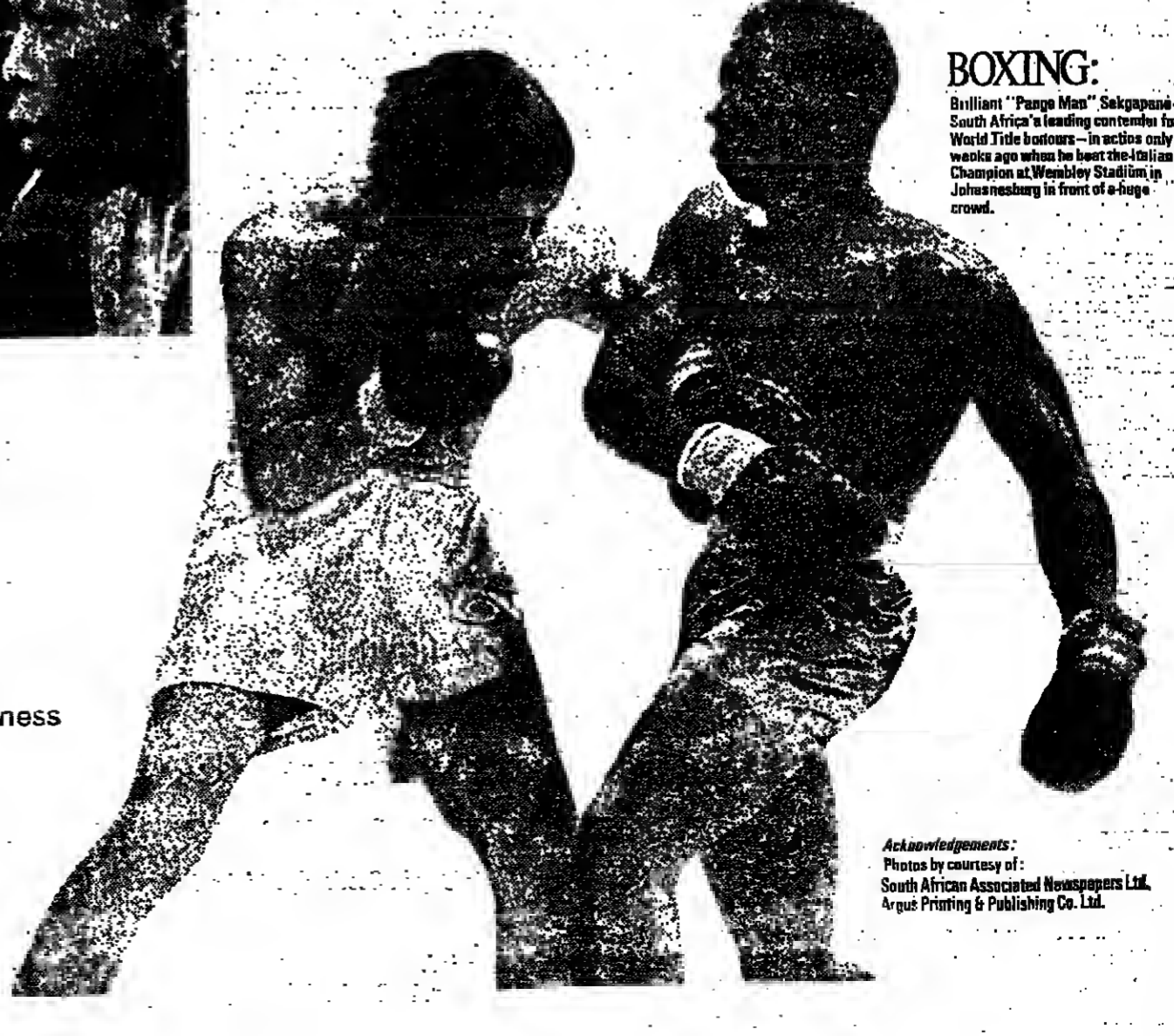
**SOCCER:** The game was fast and furious in a recent S.A. Soccer competition played at the Rensel Stadium, Johannesburg.

**BOXING:** Youth shows its enthusiasm in the ring as these two South African youngsters battle for honour.

**BOXING:** Brilliant "Pango Man" Sekgopane—South Africa's leading contender for World Title honours—in action only weeks ago when he beat the Italian Champion at Wembley Stadium in Johannesburg in front of a huge crowd.



**CYCLING:** A highly competitive sport rapidly increasing in popularity amongst all the peoples of South Africa.



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WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

Arab ministers to meet in Cairo for talks on improving guerrilla relations with Jordan

From Paul Martin Beirut, Dec 22

Egypt, Syria, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) will discuss how to implement the Arab summit decision on the PLO at a meeting in Cairo in 10 days' time.

Although Jordan acceded to Arab wishes by joining in the decision to recognize the PLO as "sole representative" of the Palestinian people, there has been little or no improvement in their relations.

For its part, the PLO decided at a meeting of its 43-man central council to halt the anti-Jordan propaganda campaign it has waged since the civil war of September 1970.

The Palestinians intend to

press at the Cairo talks, which will be at foreign minister level or its equivalent, for the re-establishment of a PLO political and military presence in Jordan.

This is likely to be the stumbling block. Jordan has made it clear that it does not trust the PLO's motives and remains suspicious of the PLO's intentions regarding the existing order in the kingdom.

Mr. Rifai, the Jordan Prime Minister, declared last week that the time had come for the PLO to "bravely and clearly define its stand" towards Jordan.

Clearly, much ground has to be covered before any semblance of mutual confidence is reestablished between Jordan and the PLO.

Several vehicles with drivers

that Jordan was persuaded to attend the Cairo meeting.

In addition to the vital question of Jordan-PLO relations, the four participants will also turn their attention to the possibility of resuming the Geneva talks.

What is not clear is whether the foreign ministers talks will pave the way for a full summit of the four parties.

President Assad is due to make a brief visit to Lebanon, the first in nearly two decades by a Syrian President, to discuss defence matters of mutual interest.

making a special trip to Amman,



Rescuers searching for the bodies of skiers buried by an avalanche which killed nine people near Kitzbühel, Austria, on Saturday.

Mourners held after Mass for shot Basque

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Dec 22

About 55 mourners were arrested after some 1,000 people attended a requiem Mass in San Sebastian for a young Basque who was shot dead by police.

Señor José Miguel Zalegui, died of gunshot wounds last Wednesday after police at a road block in Mondragón, near San Sebastian, opened fire on a car in which he was a passenger.

The police announced that the driver of the car, a veteran of General Franco's Blue Division which fought for Hitler in the Second World War, would be prosecuted, apparently for failing to stop at a time.

20 hurt in Rome as police stop street battle

From Our Correspondent Rome, Dec 22—Three policemen were shot and wounded in a pitched street battle in Rome today between left-wing and right-wing extremists and the police who were trying to keep them apart.

At least three demonstrators were seriously injured. One of them had had burns caused by a firebomb.

Two of the shot policemen were in a serious condition in hospital.

Tension has been building up all week in the working class district of Monteverde Nuovo since it was announced that a

neo-fascist meeting would be held there today.

Large forces of riot police were sent to the meeting which was addressed by Signor Pino Rauti, a member of Parliament of the right-wing Italian social movement.

The police said that the fighting began when about 400 left-wing extremists, also helmeted and armed with clubs, chains and firebombs, tried to break up the meeting.

The street battle was one of the worst seen in Rome, according to a senior police official. The police arrested nine people during the fighting and detained about 40 later.

Mr Rockefeller given important functions

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Dec 22

The United States Government continued its far-flung Christmas dispersal today. President Ford took to the ski slopes of Vail, Colorado, having heaped responsibilities on the willing shoulders of his new Vice-President, Mr. Nelson Rockefeller.

However, the Vice-President in turn departed for New York, bound later for a holiday in Puerto Rico. And the ninety-third Congress, which placed both of them, unselected, in office, has adjourned after going down in history as the first United States legislature to expose and depose a President.

Mr Rockefeller, appearing yesterday for his first official White House meeting, was assured that the President's Oval Office will always be open to him.

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Congress investigation of CIA seems inevitable

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Dec 22

Spokesmen for the Central Intelligence Agency said today that the massive exposure by The New York Times this morning of "illegal" CIA counter-intelligence activities in the United States during the Nixon years might bring an official response tomorrow.

The newspaper, in a long article by Mr Seymour Hersh, accused the CIA of violating the 1947 law which established the agency and directed it to keep its dirty tricks abroad.

Mr Hersh reports that the special operations branch of the agency, counter-intelligence department, conducted surveillance of some 10,000 opponents of the Vietnam war during the Nixon years.

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new policies could give a much needed fillip to confidence in the competence of the Administration.

According to the official explanation given after Mr Rockefeller's meeting last week, Mr Rockefeller is to become the major force within the Administration, and will not be left as a frustrated stand-in.

In addition to his vice-chairmanships of both the Domestic Council and the National Security Council, he is, the White House said, to help recruit talented staff to explain Mr Ford's policies.

One of his first tasks will be to find a new director for the Domestic Council to replace M. Kenneth Cole, a resigning Nixon appointee.

On the foreign side, Mr Rockefeller was appointed to a committee headed by M. Robert Murphy, the former senior ambassador, which is considering how to strengthen foreign policy.

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Mr Sadat to visit France early next year

Cairo, Dec 22—M. Sauvagnargues, the French Foreign Minister, met President Sadat for an hour today to discuss the Middle East and bilateral relations.

"We talked of the French role regarding the search for a settlement," M. Sauvagnargues said. The president appreciated this positive role.

Mr Sadat is to make a state visit to France toward the end of January or early February.

French 'spy' sentenced to death in Lebanon

Beirut, Dec 22—François Rangée, a Frenchman, aged 38, was sentenced to death by a Lebanese military court yesterday for spying on behalf of Israel.

The court found that M. Rangée hired a car used in the Israeli raid under the name of Gilbert Rambert, of Belgian nationality, the source said.

Three witnesses at the trial gave evidence that François Rangée and Gilbert Rambert were the same person.

were waiting for the commandos when they landed.

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Three witnesses at the trial gave evidence that François Rangée and Gilbert Rambert were the same person.

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NOTE: The Standard Rate for operator controlled calls will apply from 6 pm December 24 until midnight December 26 in England, Northern Ireland and Wales; and in Scotland throughout Christmas Day and from 6 pm December 31 until midnight January 1.

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Your booklet will tell you what direct dialling facilities are available from your telephone.

It lists the dialling codes of United Kingdom exchanges and the main exchanges abroad which can be dialled by you direct.

On Christmas Day (New Year's Day in Scotland) there will be fewer operators on duty, so please make any directory enquiries now.

If your telephone has International Subscriber Dialling (ISD) facilities consult the international operator now for dialling codes not shown in your dialling booklet.

Since the beginning of this month ISD subscribers have been able to dial direct to these additional countries, using the Country codes shown:

- Australia (010 61) Hong Kong (010 852) Israel (010 972) New Zealand (010 64) Singapore (010 65) South Africa (010 27).



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Telegrams will continue to be accepted by telephone throughout the period.

Outside Scotland normal Bank Holiday deliveries will apply on January 1. In Scotland Sunday delivery arrangements will apply on Boxing Day and January 2.

كندا من الأصل

Hanoi criticizes British attitude to Vietnam

By A. M. Rendel

The North Vietnamese Government yesterday reacted sharply to the British decision to replace Mr John Fawcett, the British Ambassador in Hanoi, by a chargé d'affaires.

A spokesman of the North Vietnamese Government had adopted an "inappropriate attitude" towards both the North Vietnamese Government and the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government in South Vietnam.

This, the spokesman added, was the reason why North Vietnam had never accepted Mr Fawcett's credentials, although

he arrived in Hanoi last January.

North Vietnam has now, therefore, openly admitted what was long assumed, that the British Government's decision not to move towards recognition of the Vietcong is the reason why Mr Fawcett's credentials were not accepted.

Mr Fawcett, it is pointed out in London, has completed the first year of his normal tour of duty in Hanoi, and there seems no point in sending an ambassador to replace him, while there is no prospect that he will be able to present his credentials and operate as an ambassador in the normal way.

Libya steps up aid for Malta

Tripoli, Dec 22—Libya and Malta have agreed to step up cultural, technical, and economic cooperation at the end of a visit to Malta by Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

Libya will invest in industry and tourism.

Christmas greetings from The Pope

Rome, Dec 22—Pope Paul sent Christmas greetings to the whole world today and expressed the hope that Holy Year, which begins on Christmas Eve, would be propitious for the peace and salvation of the world.

European Law Report

Week ended December 20

EEC jurisdiction over sports regulations

Between: Bruno Nils Olaf Walrave, Léonius Johannes Norbert Koch and International Cyclist Union; and Koninklijke Nederlandse Wielren Unie and Federación Española Ciclista.

Referred for preliminary decision by the Dutch district court at Utrecht.

Before the president, Judge R. Lejour, and judges C. O'Daligh, Lord Mackenzie Stuart, A. Demmer, R. Monaco, J. Mertens de Wilmars, F. Pescatore, H. Kautcher, M. Sorenson, Mr Advocate-General J. P. Warner.

This was a question of interpretation of Articles 7, 48, and 59 of the EEC Treaty, from 1973 (free establishment of workers).

The two petitioners in the main action, Messrs Walrave and Koch, both of Dutch nationality, are regularly engaged for remuneration, as motor-cycle pace-makers for bicycle races known as "sayers". They work for individual cyclists, for cyclists' associations and for commercial sponsors.

They are both involved in the cycle-racing world championship by the rules of which, laid down by the International Cyclists' Union, provide that, from 1973 onwards, the pace-maker shall be of the same nationality as the stayer.

The petitioners in the main action claim that this provision runs counter to the EEC Treaty inasmuch as it bars a pace-maker for a stayer who is a national of an EEC member state from providing his services to a stayer from another member state.

Relevance of EEC law to private law contracts:

It has been argued before the court that the EEC law rules under authority, that they do not apply to private law contracts or agreements.

In fact, the rule of non-discrimination does not only hold in respect of acts of public authority, but extends to rules, by-laws, regulations, by-laws or agreements, those rules, by-laws or agreements were made, or entered into, with a view to establishing, mutually or collectively, salaries work or services. This is the case under Articles 7, 48 and 59 EEC Treaty, at which aim, within their respective domains, at the elimination of any discrimination whatsoever on the grounds of nationality.

Indeed, what would remain of the rule that member states shall abolish any obstacles to the free movement of persons and services—a major objective of the Community—solely proclaimed in Article 3 of the EEC Treaty—if the abolition of state-made obstacles could be put to nothing by rules of groups or associations having no public authority?

Furthermore, as the conditions of work existing in different member states are regulated by acts of parliament, or by other public enactments, in the face of the Treaty only would be tantamount to a serious discrimination as regards the application of EEC law.

The fact that Article 48 (abolition of any discrimination based on nationality between workers of member states as regards remuneration) extends to agreements of a non-public nature is well established.

Territorial limits of EEC law:

The national court further inquired whether and to what extent the rule of non-discrimination apply to legal contracts established within the framework of a worldwide federation of games or sports. The European court has also been asked to state whether the legal situation might be different according to whether the competition takes place within the Community or in third countries.

From the overriding position of the non-discrimination rule within the Treaty, it follows that this rule shall apply to all contracts whenever such contracts, either by virtue of the place in which they were drawn up, or by the place in which they produce their effect, may be said to exist within the Community. It is for the national court to assess whether this is so in the case before it, and, as regards the effect of such contracts, to rule whether there has occurred a violation of the non-discrimination rule from case to case.

Direct applicability of EEC rules in municipal law:

Finally, the Dutch court inquired whether Article 59(1) and, possibly, Article 7(1) of the EEC Treaty are directly applicable in member states.

As the court has stated above, Article 59 aims at abolishing restrictions on freedom to provide services within the Community in respect of members of member states. Article 59 implements the field of services—the non-discrimination rule which Article 7 establishes in a general manner and which Article 48 implements in the wage-earning sector.

Court of Justice of the European Community

Continuation of the legal analysis and court decisions regarding EEC law, including territorial limits, direct applicability, and non-discrimination rules.

OVERSEAS

Junior senator from Minnesota, aged 63, restored to ebullience after serious operation Humphrey plans for Democratic Party

From Fred Emery Washington, Dec 22. Mr Hubert Humphrey comes bounding into the Capitol Hill breakfast, grumbling vehemently because a late driver made him walk 24 blocks from his home. For the junior senator from Minnesota, aged 63, it is no mean feat. This time last year, he recalls, he was being discharged after an operation for an abdominal malignancy, and thought the end was not far off.



Mr Humphrey: "Government needs good advice."

Now he seems restored to his brilliant, unstoppable self. He ticks his breakfast with gusto, just as he ticks irrefragably with newspapersmen he has known for years.

He has great plans for the Democratic Party in the next Congress. These do not, he insists, include a third campaign year for the presidency.

Almost scoffing, he says this respect is "as remote as my eyeing the next astronaut to up to it." Well, not quite up to it. But he is not going to rule it out. After all, who could have thought Nelson Rockefeller would have a good one, or 66, Vice-President. He does not make the analogy, but laughs at it.

He means it. For a start he expects to become chairman of an important joint Economic Committee of Congress. He is taking care of policy, he thinks Hubert Humphrey can fill the void.

Nevertheless, Mr Humphrey adamant that he will never use a primary campaign again, never campaign himself, or employ campaign staff. His son is the "hurt and embarrassment" of this past summer which he and his meo were id up to suspicion and, in a case of some of the distasteful, to indicting offences. To sign funding offences. To sign at "every damn cheque" id invidious whether it has a dden corporate contribution he says, beyond him now.

As one of the party's most respected leaders, he is trying to galvanize the older men into seizing the hour. He wants them to meet the party's election responsibility and hammer out policies that they can then take to the President and resolve, with him, into national policies. Mr Humphrey says Mr Carl Albert, the Speaker of the House and the party's most senior elected representative, agrees.

He is being encouraged by her Democrats by the dozen, to the field. He has a good word for them, saying: "We need to bear their voices." Of r Morris Udall, the first to

A conference of all the Democratic leaders is likely in

the new year. Mr Humphrey insists that the economy must be stimulated, or face not only worse recession but worse inflation. He urges big tax cuts. He insists that "Presidents are for leadership" but he intends juggling Mr Ford's elbow.

He is scathing about Mr Ford and the men around him and scoffs that Mr Nelson Rockefeller, whatever his qualities, cannot become a "second President." Mr Humphrey is also sounding a positive note for action.

Mr Humphrey speaks sensibly about foreign policy. He advocates pursuing détente with the Soviet Union while calling for a better explanation of what it all means. He deplores the over-concentration on weaponry in the debate when, he insists, the priority problem, East and West, is economic. He calls for a scrutiny of all deals with the Soviet Union that would be "tough but not bellicose."

Why Mr Richardson accepted London post

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Dec 22

Mr Elliot Richardson agreed to become the next American Ambassador to Britain because Dr Kissinger's post of Secretary of State—the only Cabinet job in which he was interested—was not open to him, according to his friends.

Also he had concluded that he no longer had reasonable chances of standing for the presidency or any hope of defeating Mr Edward Kennedy for the Senate seat of his native Massachusetts. His friends said that only if President Ford and Vice-President Rockefeller were both to drop out of the running in 1976 would he think of returning from London as the potential candidate for the centre of the Republican Party.

His selection as Ambassador has not yet been announced, although British opinion has now been gauged. Mr David Broder, widely accepted as the country's foremost political reporter, suggests in the Washington Post today that London was not Mr Richardson's idea. Mr Richardson was ready for any high post at the White House, but that he finally accepted the ambassadorship because of his devotion to duty.

Mr Broder adds that Mr Richardson has been assured by Dr Kissinger that he will have a leading status in forthcoming transatlantic energy, trade, monetary and military negotiations affecting the Western alliance. Mr Richardson knows better than to accept assurances at face value. But if he now does his homework he would be in line to be the first Secretary of State with real rather than professed knowledge of the economic crisis.

It is being suggested that President Ford, Mr Rockefeller and Mr Rumsfeld, the ambitious White House staff chief, are all glad to have removed Mr Richardson from the Washington scene.

It was a soaking wet morning in Venice, and in search of the extremely nasty coffee that only the Venetians possess the recipe for, I happened to look up and see one of those beautiful notices for tourists. "Museum Fortuny" it said, conjuring up a vague recollection of gloriously coloured pleated dresses, worn by beautiful women, a world of fantasy and luxury.

Reality is always slightly different. Strutting off for the Museum, I came up against a well—but turning very sharp right, down a lively alley, there was a large double door in a high wall. King for the Museum, it commanded. I rang. A head came out of an upper window, and uttered peeped speech: "Welcome, Mario! Mario!" who came and led me into a courtyard, green with trees and pots of plants, and at the top of a flight of stairs is the first floor of the Palazzo Pesaro, home of Mariano Fortuny y de Mandriano, Spaniard by birth, a Venetian by adoption.

There is one gigantic room, stretching from the Campo San Benetto to the little canal at the back—huge, shadowy room, with the Venetian glass effect in the windows, enormous high ceilings, full of draperies, pictures, objects, the fragments left from a life of intense artistic activity.

But I did manage to gather that Fortuny was the son of a famous Spanish painter, highly praised by Gauguin ("un jeune homme admirablement doué") and said by others to have "equalled Goya and approached Rembrandt".

Looking round, I wondered where Fortuny got his extraordinary furniture. Most of the

Fragments from the life of a master designer

and extremely thin, must have been very difficult to wear successfully. The vague for them lasted from 1910 until the 1930s. They were never mass produced, though Fortuny had a shop in Paris at one time, and they were sold to New York and London. Englishwomen, with their dread of anything too remarkable or noticeable, were not so enamoured of Fortuny as were the Americans and the French. Among many others in international society, the great Italian actress Lleanora Duse was dressed by Fortuny. In 1972 Fortuny's collection of old silks and velvet, dating back to the fourteenth century, acquired for reference, was sold at Christie's. The dresses, now collected in pieces, come up at the salerooms, making up to £200 for particularly fine examples.

Overhead in the apartment are little, delicate handmade lampshades, the hand painted silk crumbling to pieces before you touch them. In the corner is Fortuny's studio, full of huge, brightly coloured paintings which I took to be stage designs, and on the wall a poster which he had produced in 1899, the multi-coloured wall where he wiped off the surplus paint before cleaning his brushes.

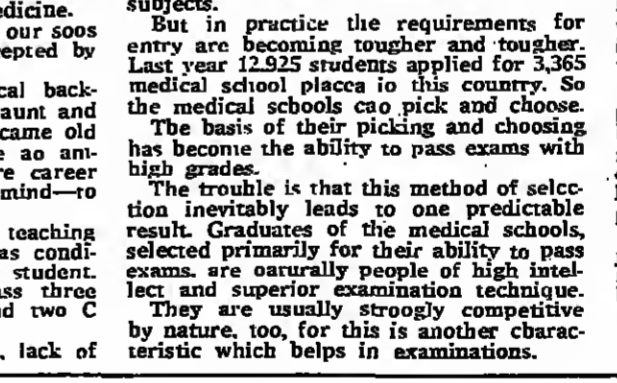
Fortuny died in 1949, a much respected figure in Venice and in spite of being Spaniard for years he could be recognized by his "uniform" of dark blue suit, black cloak and beret. His widow, who died in 1956, left the apartment to the University to be kept as a museum.

Like Venice, it has a melancholy air. Sino ganio unizforne, as the stone tablet in the courtyard says, was for the most ephemerally arts. Was he wealthy? It seems unlikely, as he was not particularly interested in the commercial aspects of his designs. Did he go on, like Paul Poiret, throwing out ideas and enthusiasm into his old age? How long will we remember Fortuny? It would be unfair to dismiss him as an eccentric whose influence has passed. Marilyn O'Connell is writing his biography, and his designs are still produced in Venice; not, alas, the sensuous and beautiful velvets, but at the shop in the Via Marzò which has a little notice saying "Fortuny" they still have in stock 350 of his original designs, on cotton.

Newer two collections with three, goes the proverb. In the exhibition of portrait drawings, an enchanting little portrait of a woman in a blue dress, these days I am going to fill myself at a sale where there is a Fortuny dress going—just my size.

Philipa Toomey

Below: Apricot pleated evening dress, about 1912. Given by Miss Irene Worth to the Victoria and Albert Museum.



Philipa Toomey

In brief

JS call for big tax cuts

Washington, Dec 22.—The Congressional Joint Economic Committee has recommended tax cuts of between \$10,000 and \$2,000m (£4.3m-£5.2m) next year to help the nation's sagging economy.

Physicist leaves Russia

Moscow, Dec 27.—Dr Viktor Askani, aged 44, the Jewish physicist, who had tried in vain three years to get an exit visa to leave the Soviet Union, flew to Vienna today en route to Israel a month after getting a visa.

Point chess winners

Moscow, Dec 22.—Mikhail Tal and Alexander Beltyevsky today emerged as joint winners of the Soviet Union's chess championship in Leningrad, both players finished with 9.5 points.

Free Allendes' plea

Paris, Dec 22.—More than 400 French parliamentary deputies of senators have called on Chile to release Señora Laura Allende, sister of the late President Salvador Allende, who has cancer, and her daughter Mariana.

Turks' fear on bases

Ankara, Dec 22.—Turkey has again expressed its concern to Britain over the health of Turkish Cypriot refugees at British bases in Cyprus. Five have died in the past two weeks.

Franco-Iranian accord

Teheran, Dec 22.—M Chirac, the French Prime Minister, would agree here today for construction by a French company of an underground rail system in Teheran and Iranian cities.

All's well that ends...

Miami, Dec 22.—Rescuers using air hammers and hand tools dug their way through a 15-month-old girl trapped seven feet down a 22ft well.

Royal visit to India

The Prince of Wales will visit Delhi from February 20 to 22 on his way to Nepal. It will be his first visit to India.

Bhutan and Indian 'identity' of views

From Michael Hornsby Delhi, Dec 22

India and its small Himalayan neighbour, Bhutan, today declared that they shared a "complete identity of views" on all matters relating to the King's visit to Delhi of King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, Bhutan's 19-year-old ruler.

A press statement issued at the end of the visit said that in his talks with Indian leaders the King had reviewed a wide range of bilateral and international issues "in a spirit of deep mutual respect".

Critical British look at Unesco work

By Our Political Correspondent

The Government is taking a critical look at the work of Unesco in view of its recent Paris conference where a coalition of Arab and communist votes resulted in decisions to take discriminatory action against Israel.

In a letter to Mr Eric Moon, Labour MP for Basildon, Mrs Hart, the Minister for Overseas Development, states Unesco has "tremendous sympathy" for Israel and was very sad that the majority in an international organization should behave in this way.

Ceylon bans paramilitary groups

From Our Correspondent Colombo, Dec 22

The Ceylon Government last night enacted emergency regulations providing for the outlawing, and confiscation of assets, of political parties which indulge in paramilitary activities or challenge the validity of the constitution except in the National Assembly or courts of law.

Pravda attacks American 'enemies of détente'

Moscow, Dec 22.—The newspaper Pravda said today that "enemies of détente" in the United States had been forced by public pressure to agree to a Government trade Bill lowering tariffs on imported Soviet goods.

Pravda's comment was the first published in Moscow since Congress on Friday approved the Bill which grants the Soviet Union the status of a most favoured nation, a provision of the Moscow-Washington agreement negotiated by Mr Nixon when President.

The demonstration was called to celebrate the beginnings of a "national work campaign" and in support of a Government plan announced on Friday to turn the country into a socialist state, with a one-party system, peoples communes and collective farms and Government control of vital industries.

Ethiopian students march before joining farm work

Addis Ababa, Dec 22.—Tens of thousands of students demonstrated throughout Addis Ababa yesterday in support of plans to turn Ethiopia into a socialist state.

The police estimated that between 40,000 and 50,000 people had taken part in the peaceful march, singing and waving banners proclaiming: "On with progress" and "Help our rural brothers". Another 50,000 people cheered them on from the windows.

The demonstrators were flanked by heavily armed police and army units, and military aircraft flew over the capital.

The demonstration was called to celebrate the beginnings of a "national work campaign" and in support of a Government plan announced on Friday to turn the country into a socialist state, with a one-party system, peoples communes and collective farms and Government control of vital industries.

China is again disappointed by grain harvest

From David Bonavia Peking, Dec 22

China has evidently reaped another rather disappointing grain harvest this year. An official report said today that the harvest had shown "a fairly big increase" over 1973, but such vocabulary is restrained by Chinese standards and suggests only a modest increase.

Why medical schools no longer turn out family doctors

The recruitment of doctors into general practice is still causing concern, according to the Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health and Social Security, Dr Henry Yellowless, in his recently published report.

Why? Because we happen to have sons and daughters who want nothing more than to become GPs, and to remain in this country, to practise their medicine, as the troops, and that so many of our sons and daughters are not being accepted by medical schools.

My son comes from a medical background. His father, grandfather, aunt and uncle are GPs. Ever since he became old enough to be able to formulate an ambition with regard to his future career he has kept a single goal in mind—to become a GP himself.

After an interview at a London teaching hospital when he was 17, he was conditionally accepted as a medical student. The condition was that he pass three science A levels with one B and two C grades.

Unfortunately, through ill-luck, lack of industry or sheer anxiety, his A-level results did not come up to scratch. The following year, still not 19 years old, he tried the school again, but only succeeded in attaining a B, a D and an E.

Not bad, you might think. Certainly quite good enough to get him university entrance for almost any other course except medicine. But medicine is now barred to him.

But in practice the requirements for entry to a teaching hospital would be three A-levels, E grade passes, in science subjects.

Holly: a cautionary tale for Christmas

It seemed like a good idea at the time. We imagined the delight on the faces of our three daughters as they hurried downstairs on Christmas morning to find a dear little puppy gazing soulfully at them from a brand new basket; but like most romantic visions, this one proved to have little connexion with reality.

The girls were delighted, of course, with their three-month-old Airedale. Their parents spent most of Christmas Day collecting little doggie's calling cards, roasting various treasures from teeth as sharp as needles, and protecting visitors from playful attacks. Then there was the matter of the gateau that was meant to form the centrepiece of the festive tea table, but which the dog apparently thought was her supper; hardly a crumb remained.

On well dogs will be dogs, said good-naturedly. But as Holly—we had named her in a rush of Yuletide enthusiasm worthy of Bob Cratchit—grew larger my temper grew shorter.

Why medical schools no longer turn out family doctors

When they graduate their inclinations are to carry on to the challenge of very nice examinations, to continue competing. They are therefore instinctively drawn to the specialities. Their aim is to become hospital consultants, if not in this country then elsewhere.

Perhaps the selection boards for medical schools should bear in mind that other qualities than good exam technique are necessary to make good doctors. Not least among these is a warm sympathetic interest in people and their individual problems which leads to what is now sadly becoming known as "the old family doctor relationship".

The family doctor relationship is disappearing because the type of student now being accepted in medical schools regards going into general practice as an admission of failure. Which makes for a lot of unhappy and frustrated people doing general practice.

And a lot of frustrated GPs doing other jobs. Can we really afford to turn down the young medical women who want to be general practitioners?

Maureen Vincent

Holly: a cautionary tale for Christmas

Ben Hur. A sharp tug on the leash produced instant acceleration and the only way of stopping her was to hook my arm around a lamp post or passerby.

She had a large garden and a paddock. I decided expenditure was the better part of valour. She offered me £1 for Holly. "That's all right," I said. "You keep it."

David Sinclair

SPORT

Cricket
At last things go according to plan for MCC

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Adelaide, Dec 22
One of many loads was lifted, at least temporarily, from Denness's mind here today when he made his first tour to South Australia. With Amis, Crowdy and Edrich also getting some runs, and gaining in confidence accordingly.

Scorecard

Table with columns for batsmen, runs, and bowling figures for the MCC vs South Australia match.

Rugby Union

An unreal way to boost confidence

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent
Eleven tries—eight of them by the senior side—of a grand total of 60 points is not what England may expect in their first international in Dublin next month. If the proceedings in the test match at Twickenham on Saturday seemed unreal, we should be thankful for considerable mercies.

Surprises in teams for final Irish trial

The poor performance by Ireland against the All Blacks last month is reflected in the team's selection for the final trial in a fortnight's time. The selectors have opted for a surprise in the form of a new captain, and a surprise in the form of a new captain, and a surprise in the form of a new captain.

Acting captain in a general's role

By Peter Marson
Newport, having advanced upon Twickenham at the Stoop Memorial Ground on Saturday, fortified by an imposing and embellished retinue of over 100,000 spectators, stumbled and fell before a wily and well-armed adversary in Harlequins. There were a number of factors that combined, made this notable success by five penalty goals to a dropped goal (18 points) to a goal (6 pts) less surprising than it might seem.



Denness... played quite unlike someone who has been having a traumatic time of it.

Denness... played quite unlike someone who has been having a traumatic time of it. He used his feet to drive the spinners and altogether played quite unlike someone who has been having a traumatic time of it.

London Welsh given what they used to give

By Michael Hardy
London Welsh against Cardiff. This game, at Old Deer Park on Saturday, was the "big one" as the lottery hopefuls say in Spain around the time of the year-end. It lived up to its name. If London Welsh had to howl to a stronger Cardiff side, at least they scored first, they made a stirring game of it and they gave us a suitably exciting finish.

Bowles, halm, advertise the positive approach

By Norman de Mesquita
Some recent visitors to White Hart Lane have been criticized for their negative approach and the Tottenham Hotspur faithfuls have been disappointed to watch. No such criticism can be levelled at Queen's Park Rangers, who do not have it in mind to be defensively minded. They have shown their positive approach, and in the first half, when Rangers built up a strong attack, Tottenham rarely looked like making any sort of game of it.

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Football
Significant win for West Bromwich

By Norman Fox
Was there not a profusion of once-proved that nine-tenths of a football match was controlled by luck and the other tenth by the skill of the players? If so, we would say there were no surprises in the first division on Saturday and there will be none on Boxing Day or next Saturday because there is nothing surprising about the season's champions.

Coming out of the wash without a whitener

By Norman Fox
Playing in the dusty pink hot grass beneath their high-rise new stands, Chelsea usually look as if they are about to be chased off by the caretaker. But against West Ham United on Saturday, they gave the caretaker a lesson in the art of the "keep off the grass" notices removed. They scurried about in comparative freedom, wearily ending the day with a point from a 1-1 draw with West Ham United, and one expected that all went home bruised and bloodied and saying, "But I ought to see what they look like."

London Welsh given what they used to give

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Today's fixture

Table listing football fixtures for the day, including Third division and Fourth division matches.

Weekend results and tables

Table showing weekend results and league tables for the First, Second, Third, and Fourth divisions.

Apprehension as Stoke City go down on their luck

By Tom Footeman
Stoke City, having had their hopes of winning the first division championship dealt a severe blow on Saturday by Arsenal, must still be wondering how they managed to lose 2-0. It was Stoke's first home loss since December, 1973, and coming after last week's dismal performance, it was an apprehension as to their ability to make up the lost ground.

Better to put your money on Carlisle than Everton

By Tom German
Credentials as aspiring champions which seemed above suspicion after 15 league matches without a defeat, Carlisle looked like a shrewd bet for the first time. Indeed, it was only their second defeat with the season half over, but a speculator making an instant judgment would have thought Carlisle 1-2 with the season half over.

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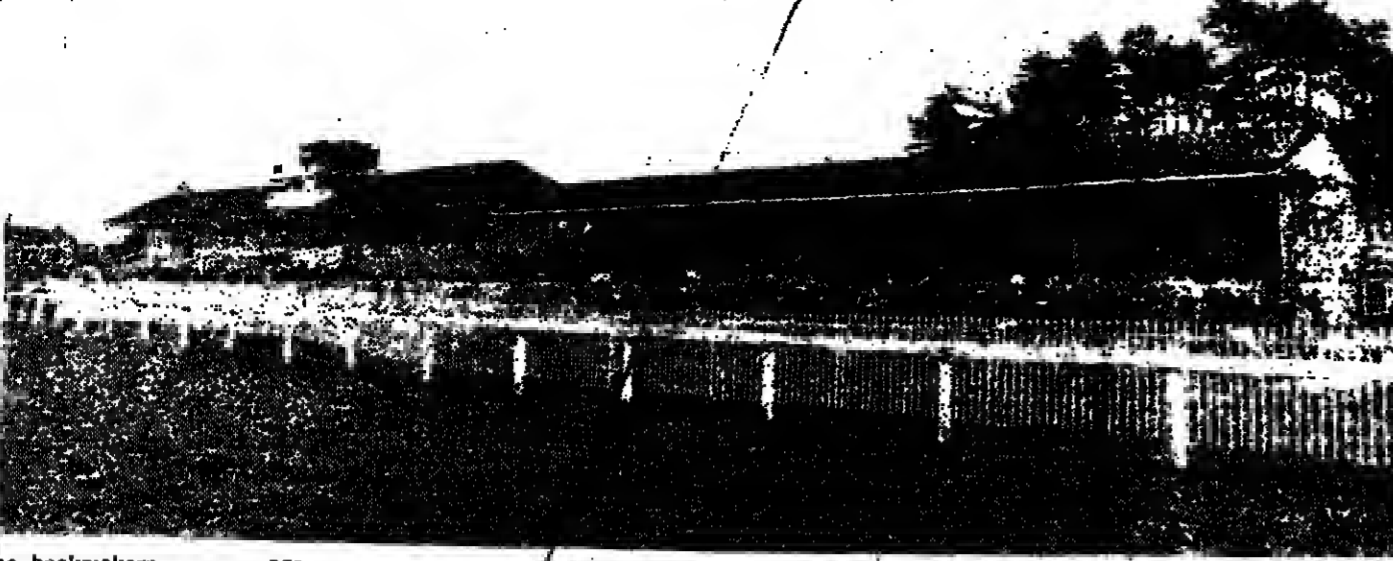
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SPORT

Racing



The bookmakers course: 350 acres of Lingfield Park bought for £500,000 as part of the leisure activities group of Ladbrokes.

Lingfield Park sold to Ladbrokes

Michael Phillips, racing correspondent, reports on the sale of Lingfield Park to Ladbrokes. The 350-acre park is being converted into a bookmakers course. Phillips discusses the implications for the racing community and the future of the park.

Ludlow programme

- A detailed list of horse racing events for the Ludlow programme, including various steeplechases and hurdle races with their respective handicaps and prize money.

ockey

Hertfordshire step nearer to the county title

Report on the Hertfordshire county cricket team's progress. The team is performing well and is close to winning the county title. The article details recent matches and the team's strategy.

Preference is for Emma J at Ludlow

By Jim Snow. A report on the preference for Emma J at Ludlow. The article discusses the horse's performance and the expectations of the racing public.

Continuation of the Emma J article, discussing her recent races and the opinions of trainers and owners.

Fakenham results

- A list of race results from Fakenham, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Sedgefield

- A list of race results from Sedgefield, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Utteter

- A list of race results from Utteter, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Chepstow

- A list of race results from Chepstow, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Ludlow selections

- A list of recommended selections for the Ludlow races, including race numbers and horse names.

Switzerland in the role of England's most formidable opponent

By Pamela Macgregor-Morris. An article discussing the role of Switzerland as a formidable opponent in international sports, particularly in the context of the Winter Olympics.

Tennis NSW titles for Roche and Ross Goolagong

Report on the NSW tennis titles won by Roche and Ross Goolagong. The article highlights their performance and the significance of the titles.

Britain at full strength for five a side climax

By Rex Bellamy. An article about the five-a-side football tournament in Britain, focusing on the participation of international players and the excitement of the event.

Black second in Barcelona

Report on the performance of a Black athlete in Barcelona, highlighting their achievement and the challenges they faced.

For the record

- A collection of short news items and records, including sports results and other notable events.

Boxing

Report on a boxing match, including the names of the fighters and the outcome of the bout.

Ice hockey

Report on an ice hockey game, including the teams involved and the final score.

Cross-country

Report on a cross-country race, including the names of the participants and their performance.

Cricket

Report on a cricket match, including the teams, the venue, and the result.

Skiing

Report on a skiing event, including the names of the skiers and their performance.

Tennis

Report on a tennis match, including the names of the players and the outcome.

Boxing

Report on a boxing match, including the names of the fighters and the result.

Ice hockey

Report on an ice hockey game, including the teams and the score.

Boxing

Report on a boxing match, including the names of the fighters and the result.

Ice hockey

Report on an ice hockey game, including the teams and the score.

Advertisement for Mouton-Cadet wine. The ad features a bottle of wine and the text: 'Good year, great year, sometimes never. With a growth of wine-drinking in Britain, you might expect a really sharp rise in the consumption of Mouton-Cadet. Not so. For the quality of Mouton-Cadet depends on the quality of wine any one year produces in the limited Bordeaux region. If the standard is generally low—as in 1963 and 1968—there's no Mouton-Cadet for that year. That's why you can't always get Mouton-Cadet. And why, when you can, it always tastes superb. Fragrant, dry and delicate. As befits a claret blended by the head cellar-master of Chateau Mouton Rothschild itself. MOUTON-CADET APPELLATION BORDEAUX CONTROLEE'.

Latest snow reports

Table with columns for Location, Depth (cm), Conditions, and Weather (15 pm). It provides snow depth and conditions for various locations like Andermatt, Anzere, Davos, etc.

Wind-packed

Text describing wind-packed snow conditions and their impact on skiing.

Scotland

Text reporting on skiing conditions in Scotland, mentioning areas like Cairngorms and Ben Nevis.

# Lessons that Britain could learn in the debate over freedom of the press

## Bonn

In legal terms there can be few countries in the world which afford their press as much freedom as West Germany does. The main threat, and it is a serious one, to press freedom is economic.

By British standards, the West German law of defamation is risible. An extreme recent example was when a magazine reported that the head of a national security service was an East German spy. Although it is difficult to imagine a more libellous statement, the man received only DM20,000 (about £3,500) in damages through a court. Nor did a West German editor worry about contempt of court, because the principle scarcely exists. Thus when police arrest suspects, the papers carry headlines like "Monich Sex Murders Cleared up", publish the man's picture and may also name him, all before he is even charged. But under a century-old law, a person who feels he has been maligned has the right to demand the publication of his own rebuttal. There is also a West German Press Council broadly comparable with the British.

Economically, there is a lot of bad news nowadays from the West German press. The economic downturn has led this year to a marked decline in advertising revenue—around 20 per cent in many cases—just as the price of newsprint has shot up. Nearly all newspapers have raised their cover prices in the past few months by 20 to 25 per cent.

Sales of daily newspapers are slowly but steadily falling. The latest figures suggest a decline of more than 1 per cent a month. Many small newspapers have been driven to the wall in the past few years, and the rate at which this is happening is accelerating.

The other danger to press freedom, partly connected with the foregoing, is the growth of monopolies. The most notable offender here is the Axel Springer press empire, which, to give just one example, owns the only two Sunday newspapers nationally distributed.

Industrial relations within the press are, as usual in West Germany, very good. There was a two-day unofficial printers' strike in April, 1973, but that was the first dispute for 21 years.

The practice of allowing journalists a powerful say in the running of their paper, including in some cases the right to veto or approve the appointment of a new editor, is almost completely obsolete. Several newspapers now have

editorial committees with "task", and some publishers are as happy about this as the editorial staffs.

The Bonn interior ministry is at present at work on a bill to enshrine press freedom, as guaranteed by the constitution, in the statute book.

Dan van der Vat

## Paris

The freedom of the press in France is nowadays threatened more by economic factors, and by the politics of printing trade workers than by political interference. The days when French governments used to try to influence newspapers by bringing pressure to bear on them indirectly, or directly by suspending them, ended with the Algerian war. Journalists no longer call on government departments to receive their regular "envelopes" with the price for selling their consciences. But they can—and some do get advantages in kind for writing what pleases the government.

The complaint nowadays is rather that the substantial government aids to the press, which include subsidized newsprint, special postal rates, tax exemptions on reinvested profits, are too indiscriminate, and do not give special help to those that need it most. These are the dwindling number of political newspapers, or "journals of opinion" as they are called in France, which have small circulations and struggle to survive. Last year, for the first time, the government agreed to give editorial subsidies to "journals of opinion", but did so without any discrimination. The beneficiaries were the Catholic *La Croix*, the communist *L'Humanité*, and the independent left-wing *Le Quotidien de Paris*.

There were fears that the "General Delegation for Information" set up by the government last year might turn out to be an instrument to channel information and influence the press. These have not materialized but the government—or his business—indirectly influences the press through advertising, by setting advertising to withhold orders from certain newspapers, because the articles they published were disapproved of. *Le Monde* has experienced this. A group of economic and financial journalists recently published a white paper denouncing a number of such cases.

The French law of libel is much less severe than in other countries, especially Britain. But the law on the press dates from 1830 and is completely obsolete. It is almost completely obsolete. It is almost completely obsolete. It is almost completely obsolete.

## Points of reference by Times correspondents

We publish here a series of reports from our correspondents in Washington and some European capitals on the press, trade unions and the law. They provide points of reference which could be of some use in the continuing debate on the closed-shop principle for journalists to the Government's Trade Union Bill.

All the countries reported have strong trade unions, but with one exception the closed shop does not operate in the editorial departments of newspapers. The exception is Italy where, under a law which Mr Michael Foot may be interested to know was introduced by Mussolini, journalists must be members of the National Association of the Press.

Whether Mr Foot wants to stay in the company of the dictator remains to be seen, but closed-shop Italian style would hardly be recognized as such by the TUC. In Italy it does not prevent non-union writers from being employed. Publishers are free to recruit the best available talent on condition that they join the union.

In West Germany, where democracy flourishes perhaps because it came so late, members of the Institute of Journalists would not be threatened by the National Union of Journalists. Two unions live together in happy equality. They are the *Deutscher Journalisten-Verband* and the *Deutscher Journalisten-Union*, which is affiliated to the *Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund*, the equivalent of the TUC.

any other commercial enterprise, and no licence, for instance, for editorial associations of journalists, the *Societes de Redacteurs*. These societies, where they exist, have some control over the appointment of the editor, but it is limited. They are not enshrined in any law but depend on the goodwill of the management.

French newspapers are controlled by their owners at one end, and the printing trade workers at the other, often acting in a kind of complicity against the journalists. In France the newspaper owner, who may be just a capitalist, or also a journalist, is more powerful than the editor, and exercises direct control over policy. The situation in which an editor pursued a policy which did not meet with the owner's approval is inconceivable here.

French journalists are highly unionized, and the rate of union membership, between 50 and 60 per cent, is the highest of any profession in this country. But there is no closed-shop policy. Recruitment is quite free. The unions defend their members against the employers, but they do not enjoy any special rights in the eyes of the law. There is no special provision against the dismissal of journalists, except in so-called cases of conscience. The battle over dismissals at the ORTE, the state radio and tele-

vision, where one journalist in four is being dropped in the reorganization, is a case in point.

The freest press is of course in the United States. Its independence is guaranteed by the First Amendment, yet another argument for a British Bill of Rights. The libel laws vary from state to state, but none prohibit journalists from seeking out the truth as they do in Britain.

Instead of an Official Secrets Act, the press and indeed the individual is attacked by the Freedom of Information Act. The press was under heavy government attack during the Nixon years, but triumphed because of its own efforts.

Protected by constitutional freedom, journalists exposed the White House machinations and defeated their opponents in honest battle. No British paper could so defend itself in similar circumstances.

The Guild defends the interests of its members, they are the highest paid journalists in the world, without the alleged benefits of a closed shop. It can be militant. Even Walter Cronkite, the TV anchorman who is said to earn \$250,000 a year, has demanded a picket line.

With all this wonderful freedom it follows that the American press has prospered in doing its public duty. Newspaper advertising revenue is expected to reach a record \$7,900 million this year. A daily total of 63,800,000 copies are published every day, 1,775 newspapers.

The battle for the new technology has been largely won. About 1,100 papers have escaped from the age of Gutenberg into offset lithography, and some 700 computer

to discover and publish news of what they are up to.

Curiously enough, the press has been put on the defensive by Watergate. It is a victim of its own tendency to personalise everything. Reporters asked Mr Nixon difficult questions and wrote astonishing (and true) things about him, and people objected to the questions as much as to the President who told such lies in answering them. They constantly and wilfully forgot that the questions were asked on behalf of the general public.

Watergate has, however, achieved one small step for mankind: Congress has greatly strengthened the Freedom of Information Act. The Act allows the press and interested parties to make access to personal information through the workings of government, and believe further that reporters who do so on their behalf are impertinent busybodies. In spite of all Mr Nixon's efforts, America still does not work like that.

The new amendment, which would never have passed without Watergate, provides that the Government, when challenged, must justify the classification "secret" before a Federal Judge. It should open up many dark corners. Most of the corners should never have been dark in the first place but at least there is no Official Secrets Act here. The Nixon Administration tried to prosecute a reporter who published the Pentagon Papers, which concerned an issue of the gravest national impor-

typesetting systems have cut costs and generated prosperity.

In comparison, the Dutch press is subsidized, but its freedom has constitutional guarantees. The journalists' union is independent, but there is no closed shop. Indeed, the union's chairman argues that everyone has the right not to join a union.

In France, the press enjoys subsidized newsprint, cheap postal rates and tax exemptions, but its freedom has been threatened by the withholding of advertising. The publisher is more powerful than the editor. If any country needs a Royal Commission on the press it is France, but again there is no closed shop in the editorial departments.

In most of the countries under review the danger of the closed shop is clearly recognized. In Italy, Mussolini's old law might well have been repealed if it were not for the native congenity for circumventing the law.

The British press and Parliament could perhaps learn from some of these countries, but most of all from the United States. The Tribune group may not care to, but there are many self-proclaimed Atlanticists in the Government, including Mr Wilson. The first lesson to be learned is the accepted right of the American people to know, a right unrestricted by unnecessary laws and the obvious dangers of a closed shop.

Louis Heren

ance, but the courts upheld the First Amendment.

Another American advantage is the laxity of the libel laws. Watergate would never have been exposed in Britain. Prime Minister Nixon would have sued the entire British press the moment it suggested that he was behind a "third-rate burglary".

The latest and greatest advantage of reporters here, after the First Amendment, is the weakness of the American class system. The British and French establishments believe that the lower, or governed classes have no business in-terfere into the workings of government, and believe further that reporters who do so on their behalf are impertinent busybodies. In spite of all Mr Nixon's efforts, America still does not work like that.

Patrick Brogan

Rome

Italy's law on the press is mainly in evidence when irate readers write to newspapers alleging misrepresentation, and call for publication of their complaint under Article 8 which imposes on the editor the obligation to publish a genuine correction.

But the press is vulnerable in other ways. It is an extremely small industry. The circulation of the entire daily press is only about five million newspapers a day. The few journalists are regarded as a privileged class because of their high pay, early retiring age, and generous severance pay which are important considerations in a country lacking in many social services or an excellent arrangement for health insurance.

Newspaper proprietors are normally industrialists rather than publishers, and they are usually people who want to influence opinion: editorial opinion of their own newspaper, or chair of newspapers, and the wider field of national opinion. They also want to use their newspapers in the interests of individual politicians and other public personalities.

Journalists also have other worries. Quite apart from the natural habit here of diffidence towards powerful interests, journalists can get into trouble with the law. Group interests are protected by law, and under the existing code libel and defamation are penal questions not civil issues. Journalists have to be careful of the various forms of contempt with which they can be charged regarding such bodies as the presidency, the armed forces, the judiciary, the police, the Pope and others.

Lately, journalists themselves have begun to call for greater freedom both within the news-press and in dealing with news. Editorial committees now claim the right to a say in the choice of a new editor. Earlier this year, the staff of *Il Messaggero* successfully prevented the appointment of Luigi Barzini as editor. The staff of *Il Giorno* went on strike because an article on the divorce referendum was not published. Journalists now frequently expect sub-editors to contact them before cutting their copy. This week two or three strikes are expected because of differences arising from negotiation of a new collective contract.

Peter Nichols

## The Hague

Freedom of the spoken and written word is written into the Dutch constitution. Further legislation concerning the structure of the Press is being prepared in the form of a "media Bill" which is still in committee stage. A complex radio and television law controls the eight (non-commercial) broadcasting companies who share the two television and three radio channels. The Dutch are so keen on the right to preserve freedom of expression for all major opinion groups that they manage to run

more national daily papers than Britain for one-quarter of the population.

One objective of the new legislation is to develop a sound financial basis, in place of the present disguised subsidy in the form of a financial injection for most papers from a press fund, supplemented by reorganization grants from the Government for papers threatened with extinction.

The Dutch National Union of Journalists wants to see new papers run on a non-profit making basis, in order to separate the press from commerce. Around 70 per cent of Holland's 4,500 journalists are members of the union. Most newspapers attain a level of between 90 and 100 per cent union membership among their editorial staffs. The union is extremely active and powerful.

Dutch company law places the responsibility for a paper as a business firmly with the manager, but within the newspaper business it is generally accepted that management does not interfere with editorial policy. The editor is responsible for the content of the paper, and management is not called to if an editorial decision is liable to affect the running of the paper.

Wages and working conditions are specified in a collective working agreement, negotiated periodically between the union and the Association of Newspaper Proprietors (NDP). The NDP has ever suggested a closed shop. The union chairman Max de Bok says that closed shop would not be direct threat to freedom of the press, but it would infringe another civil right, that of a business to manage its affairs as it sees fit. The right, de Bok says, also includes the right not to join a union. Compulsory union membership would be so a infringement of personal freedom. In The Netherlands only the union for the graphical industry operates, since 1914, a closed shop for a limited sector of the trade.

The journalists' union is currently negotiating an editorial statute with the NDP. This would regulate consultation of the editorial staff on editorial appointments—particularly that of a new editor—and on important changes in newspaper policy, such as mergers or take-overs involving a change of newspaper ownership. Most editorial staffs already have far-reaching agreements giving them powers to take part in management decision-making, and most papers have an editorial council which meets regularly to talk on existing and threatening conflicts.

Sue Masterman

## Lord Chalfont

# Why Labour cannot go on being all things to all men

In the debate on the defence review in the House of Lords last week, Lord Elinval took me severely to task for suggesting that the political institutions of this country were under threat from internal extremism and subversion.

On the following day Mr Robert Mellish offered his resignation to the Prime Minister because more than 50 members of the Parliamentary Labour Party had voted against the Government after the defence debate in the Commons. These two events are not, as I shall now demonstrate, so very unconnected.

When I left the Labour Party in September, it was the pugnacious Mr Mellish, loyal as ever to Mr Wilson, who claimed, somewhat surprisingly, that he had forgotten that I was a member of a Labour government. His memory, however, might just be serviceable enough to remind him that one of the main reasons for my resignation was the growing domination and militancy of the left wing. Perhaps he might now

begin to see what I had in mind. His 54 colleagues defied his three-line whip because the Government had presented a defence policy precisely in accordance with the manifesto upon which we were elected last October—namely a policy designed to achieve "annual savings over a period of defence expenditure by Britain of several hundred million pounds".

They were not, of course, concerned that such cuts might weaken the security of the nation; their gesture was designed to indicate their displeasure with the Government for honouring its election manifesto. Instead of obeying the instructions of the Labour Party conference to cur defence spending immediately by £1,000m—a proposal of such breathtaking fatuity that it can be explained only by the most wilful blindness. Either those who con-acted and voted for such a resolution know absolutely nothing about the realities of international affairs, which is vary

likely; or they are resolved to destroy the ability of this country to defend itself. It is, of course, possible that some of them are both ignorant and ill-intentioned—the one does not exclude the other, as a visit to any prison will readily demonstrate.

In my whole affair underlines, in this view, a truth which has been emerging with increasing clarity over recent months. It is that the Labour Party cannot long survive in its present form—and, indeed, should not. This statement will, I confidently predict, be met with varying degrees of scorn and anger in "the movement"—its intensity growing as its point of origin moves to the left of the political spectrum. It will be said that any great political party is a coalition of interests, and that the Labour Party has lived through these left-right blood-baths before and will do so again. Now these are valid arguments up to a point. But my proposition is that we have now passed the point at which it makes any real sense to describe

as a single party an organization which contains on the one hand social democrats committed to a mixed-economy, free-enterprise, political system, and on the other hand Marxists dedicated to the abolition of the profit motive and the establishment of a state monopoly over workers' control. There seems to me to be something almost unbelievably bizarre in a party alignment in which "voting Labour" can mean putting a cross alongside the name of Mr Reg Prentice or Mr Harold Lever, with a fair chance that it will help to bring into being a government dominated by Mr Michael Foot and Mr Wedgwood Benn, and billed by increasingly vocal and militant left-wing extremists.

The affair of the defence debate ought to have set warning signals flashing, not only in Mr Mellish's office but also in Transport House, and indeed throughout the whole of the political establishment. For if anything is certain in today's precarious world, it is that this is not the last of the Labour

Party's convulsions, and certainly not the most serious. There is, for example, a growing tendency in pro-European circles in this country to regard the European Community battle as virtually won since Mr Wilson made his promise to negotiate the terms of accession to the electorate if they prove to be satisfactory. Anyone who believes that has a very low threshold of credulity. When Mr Callaghan eventually comes back with his package it will be seen to consist very largely of changes which would have been made anyway. In the normal course of Community development. It is going to take something very much more than that to keep Labour's anti-European quietly drooping through the prescribed lobbies. And, of course, it hardly needs to be said, because it has already been said by some of those concerned, that if the battle should be won by the anti-market-ers, Mr Wilson will lose immediately a very substantial slice of his pro-European support.

There is also the social contract, which Mr McGahey and others are single-mindedly engaged in shooting to ribbons. Sooner or later there will have to be a stand-up fight over this, and when it happens the Labour Party will be found to be irrevocably divided. How could it be otherwise when the Government contains Mr Roy Jenkins and Mr Wedgwood Benn; when the Parliamentary Labour Party gives a home to Mr Cledwyn Hughes and Mr Ian Mikardo; and when the Trade Union wing of the movement has in its leadership not only Mr Joe Gormley but Mr Arthur Scargill as well? Now if the country were stable and prosperous and contented; and if the world were peaceful, calm and uncomplicated, all this might be regarded as the harmless eccentricity of a progressive party struggling with the realities of power. But the fact is that an astonishing number of our citizens still seem almost hypnotically unaware, is that we are facing an appalling economic crisis and an unparalleled threat to the survival of our

democratic institutions. (If you don't believe me, ask Mr James Callaghan, who said it loud and clear at a private meeting in Europe last week.) We are heading for hyperinflation, or savage recession and massive unemployment—and quite possible all three—unless someone has the courage to warn the country frankly of the dangers and then to take whatever measures are necessary, however unpopular, to deal with at least that part of the problem which is susceptible to government action. For if we do not avoid, or at least abate, the coming crisis, there will be dreadful strains upon our democratic institutions; and there are people in this country waiting patiently to exploit those strains and to destroy our existing political system. If Lord Shinwell, or anyone else, does not know that, it can only be because he does not believe what such people say and write themselves.

It is arguable that a party racked with internal conflict is in no condition to deal with a crisis of these dimensions. I do not believe me, ask Mr James Callaghan, who said it loud and clear at a private meeting in Europe last week.) We are heading for hyperinflation, or savage recession and massive unemployment—and quite possible all three—unless someone has the courage to warn the country frankly of the dangers and then to take whatever measures are necessary, however unpopular, to deal with at least that part of the problem which is susceptible to government action. For if we do not avoid, or at least abate, the coming crisis, there will be dreadful strains upon our democratic institutions; and there are people in this country waiting patiently to exploit those strains and to destroy our existing political system. If Lord Shinwell, or anyone else, does not know that, it can only be because he does not believe what such people say and write themselves.

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## The Times Diary

### Bridges and the nation's future

I have long had a mild obsession about the painting of London's bridges. I believe that a workable test of whether a city is worth living in is whether it takes the trouble to think up merry new colour schemes for its bridges from time to time, and I have always admired the Greater London Council's record in this respect.

It is particularly important in times of financial stringency, when local authorities are criticized by the mean-minded for incurring any expenditure which cannot be defined in rigid terms as essential.

The last time Vauxhall Bridge was painted—it must have been about eight years ago—I wrote an enthusiastic article in *The Sun*, for which I then worked. A whole column was devoted to the piece which had the headline: THANK YOU FOR PAINTING OUR BRIDGE. *The Sun* would certainly not give a column to so unflatteringly subject nowadays, which is why it

is more successful now than it was then.)

The colour they then chose for the bridge was pale blue, which is a good contrast to the rather grimy and nondescript appearance it had before. Last week, travelling on the top deck of my 77 bus, I noticed they were going over it again, but in the bolder colours which have since become fashionable.

It is being done in lush purple, yellow and white. One of the advantages of the new scheme is that the eight statues on the bridge's pillars, sculpted in 1908 by F. W. Pomeroy and A. Drury and representing the Arts and Sciences, now stand out far more boldly, dark against a white background. Formerly the statues, the only ones to grace a London bridge, could be seen properly only at night, when they are floodlit. (And already, I expect, some sourpuss is taking up his pen to write about the waste of electricity that involves.) When I telephoned the GLC to chat about bridge-painting they boasted they were also

doing the dingy Hungerford Bridge over in a fancy red pattern. Strictly, it is British Rail's job to paint Hungerford, but they never paint their bridges in anything but the most dreary colours.

On this occasion, however, they were persuaded to let the Council choose a brighter colour scheme. They agreed only on condition that the Council paid the additional cost, and this they are doing.

More power to their paint-brushes, I say, and damn the expense. When we can no longer afford to paint our bridges gaily I shall know it is time to leave town.

### Monumental

The present spirit of détente in Southern Africa is to be given concrete form in a monument to be built in the Orange Free State. The architects, two-Pretoria brothers who have been awarded a £900 prize for their design, see it as a monument chiefly to a victory in 1836 by 60 Boers over 6,000 Matabele at Maitlton.

After their Boers' victory they found their cattle had been rustled by the fleeing Matabele—and that is where the détente comes in. A Matabele named Moroko came to their aid and got some of the cattle back. The monument, covering a 127-acre site, will be dominated

by twin concrete towers symbolizing the hands of a man in prayer. From the towers, paths will lead to a garden commemorating men of the Matabele who died in the battle.

Underneath, to show to that the spirit of the larger is not dead, a set of underground shelters will be built. The monument is due to be opened on the Day of the Covenant next December—when Afrikaners celebrate the Battle of Blood River and their defeat of the Zulu armies.

Any publicity is good publicity. A school of seamanship has sent a press release announcing that, on its stand at the Boat Show after Christmas, Colonel John Brooks, star of the recent bottom-sparking case, will be taking a lesson in navigation, seamanship and emergency procedures.

### Drunken women

More and more women in the United States and Canada are turning to Alcoholics Anonymous, according to a report from the organization to a conference in San Francisco. Women now make up 28 per cent of the membership, compared with 22 per cent in 1968. The increase is only partly due to more drinking by women,

however. Dr John Norris, chairman of the board of Alcoholics Anonymous, said women now felt less inhibited about admitting to alcoholism. Because of changing social customs, it's less of a disgrace," he said.

Dr Norris conceded that there is also more drinking, though. "When I was growing up, the acceptable social drink for women was tea," he said. "Now it's cocktails." Other participants spoke of the greater pressure on women who go to work.

### Cymbelism

I want to see the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Cymbeline* at the weekend. It purports to be by William Shakespeare but my own belief is that it is a highly political spoof relating to British membership of the European Community, probably written by Roy Jenkins.

For purposes of analysis you can ignore the main plot, a highly exaggerated Shakespearean pastiche, packed with mistaken identities, one-to-one relatives and a heroine who dresses as a man. It is the subplot which packs the political punch.

Here Cymbeline, ruler of England (ie, Harold Wilson), declines to pay tribute to Rome (ie, Brussels) and is encouraged

in this perversity by his evil wife (Peter Shore), anxious to increase Cymbeline's and thus her own power. When the Romans will not accept this there is a war (referendum) which, by accidental fortune and to his surprise as much as anyone's, Cymbeline wins.

So Britain stays unfettered. But this is where Jenkins plays his master stroke. Having won his referendum, Wilson decides he will pay tribute to Rome, if anyway. Shakespeare himself could not have devised a bappier ending.

Christmas carollers in Camberwell are exerting unseasonal pressure on people reluctant to open their doors to them. A colleague reports that after singing a few words of We wish you a merry Christmas in flat voices outside her door, and receiving no reaction, the group sang it again but changed the words to "We won't go until you pay us". When this did not produce results, they gave the door a kick and gave up.

### Self-interest

I have noticed a growing tendency of journalists to exploit their access to the media for the pursuance of causes relating to their self-interest. Newspaper editors, for example,

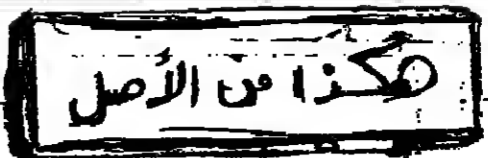


Standard to this topic, though far removed from the subject of life in London which I thought was supposed to be his theme.

I have been waiting for some one to do something irresponsible to the rights of the writers, so that I can follow the trend and pour on the vitriol. But nobody has—suppose there are not important enough. Indeed, on those (fortunate) few days when I lack inspiration, should I write, I am worried editors, welcome instructions from the National Union of Journalists, or another hour what to write.

E. B. Rimmington of Nottingham has found the following seasonal snippet in the Nottingham Journal of December 1855. We understand that Robert Feast has prepared some 2,000 packages for the army of the East, the whole of which will have ample time to arrive before Xmas. The packages intended for the officers are the very best materials, in a hermetically sealed container in two wrappers, the inner serving to reboil the pudding, and the outer, if the outer party be in want of a hot cloth, to cot on.

كندا من الأصل



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### DEAD DUCK

Decision of Mr Anthony Wood to make a £3.9m loan to the Kirby cooperative is a case of implacable opposition to his industrial advisers' wide and important issues questions of government industry commercial logic tempered by political considerations. In a static society it is right that the board should be able to help the most disadvantaged areas were to be made with a balance sheet and a rule, with no attention paid, for example, to the success, such as it is, of a system of industrial aid based upon a sensible balance reached between the trial and social factors.

Part of this system the Industry Act, 1972, set up the Industrial Development Advisory Board, a group of experienced industrialists and trade unionists advise the Secretary of State on the financial assistance industry. In a public statement its role the board has emphasized that in considering proposals put to it for advice the board, it has given the benefit of the doubt to schemes showing viability, albeit on an escape longer than would be handed on a commercial grant.

That said, the board is not to usurp the decision-making power of the Government, nor would its members, separately or collectively, claim any special expertise in social prob-

lems. The board's primary duty is to analyse objectively the industrial parameters of the problems put before it.

It is noteworthy that in the recent instances where the board's advice was not taken by the Government—the Meriden and Scottish Daily Express cooperatives—the board has chosen to remain silent. Only in the case of Kirby has it availed itself of the right under Section 9(4) of the Industry Act to have a statement laid before the House of Commons outlining its views. The clear implication to be drawn from this is that while the board may have felt that on balance Meriden and the Scottish newspaper were not suitable candidates for aid, it recognized that it had no monopoly of wisdom and that the political judgment of Mr Benn must, where there was a difference of opinion, be allowed to take precedence.

In the case of Kirby the board has requested a section 9 statement because it believes that the Government's judgment on the issue is not simply open to question, as in Meriden and the Scottish Daily Express, but totally and demonstrably wrong. Kirby, the board believes, is not merely a lame duck; it is a dead duck into which neither the political will of Mr Benn nor the determination of the Kirby workers will be able to breathe any life.

Several questions must be answered by Mr Benn. First, are there any positive alternatives to the Kirby plan? Is it right to place nearly £4m of public money, the jobs of the Kirby community and in some cases the workforce's private resources on what is by any measure a very high risk venture? Could not the

£4m spent in the area in some other way which would give greater long-term assurance of work to the Kirby employees?

Second, how much money is there in the public purse for the support of such projects, and by what system of priorities are requests of this nature to be judged? We are only at the beginning of the industrial crisis. By what yardstick, other than the determination of those who choose to stage a sit-in, are we to judge the merits or demerits of future Kirbys?

Finally, why, in a matter of such deep public interest, did Mr Benn wait until the dying hours of the last day of Parliament before the Christmas recess to allow the Industrial Development Advisory Board their right to have a statement laid before the House? The Secretary of State presents himself as one of the leading champions of the man in the street and on the shop floor. Is his action in delaying the statement and therefore increasing the danger that public debate may be curtailed consistent with this attitude?

The decision to back Kirby is Mr Benn's. He has stated: "We are trying to think fresh about the capacity of workers to resolve their own industrial problems and to create a viable enterprise. That is what the workers' cooperative is aiming to do." Mr Benn is right to keep an open mind on how the workforce can be brought into solving the problems of industry, whether it be by participation on the board, or the more radical idea of the cooperative. But even for his own purposes he could surely have chosen a better vehicle for the cooperative idea than this, which has all the odds stacked against it.

### FRANCE'S OIL DIPLOMACY

In the presence of M Chirac in Lebanon and of M Sauvagnargues in Cairo at the weekend serves to emphasize the great importance which France still attaches to her relations with the Middle East, both economic and political. The two aspects are never far apart in French minds, but clearly in Teheran the main emphasis will have been economic, while in Cairo it is likely to have been political.

France's economic objectives in the Middle East are much the same as those of other Western countries: to ensure the continuity of her oil supplies, to pay for them by exporting as much as possible to the oil producers, and to ensure a reduction of the oil price in real terms—that is, to dissuade the producers from raising prices to keep pace with inflation in the West by convincing them that such a policy will make the West's economic problems insoluble. (Unlike some other consumers, France has never believed it realistic to hope for a price reduction in money terms, and it seems that her opinion on this point is now generally shared.)

If France's pursuit of these objectives is surrounded with a greater aura of success than

that of other Western countries, that is partly because she recognized the area's importance earlier than most, partly because of the flamboyant style with which her rulers are given to conducting diplomacy, and partly because she has shown great single-mindedness in linking her political position to her economic interests.

The phrase "aura of success" is worth emphasizing, because a precise profit-and-loss account of French success is very hard to draw up. During the oil cutbacks of last winter, France was not noticeably better off than other West European countries. In the course of this year a series of bilateral trade agreements have been announced with great fanfare after visits of French politicians to producer countries or of Middle Eastern rulers to France. But often such agreements have later turned out to be less advantageous than had been claimed, or even to have been based on a misunderstanding, as in the case of M Chirac's claim that Iran had confirmed its options to buy Concorde after the Shah's state visit to France in June.

As for the oil price, France is so far no better or worse off than the rest of us. Where she

has been successful, at any rate until lately, is in convincing the producers that she has a more reasonable attitude on this question than some other consumer countries, notably the United States. But she now stands implicitly accused by the Shah of trying to deprive the oil producers of their just price by revaluing the gold reserves held by the Bank of France and other Western central banks. What had been seen in Europe as a praise-worthy attempt to bring the make-believe world of central bankers into line with the realities of the international gold market appears to oil producers as yet another dishonest scheme by speed-thrift Western governments to avoid earning the money with which they pay their bills.

This apparently technical squabble is in fact the expression of a trial of strength between two sets of monopolists—organized labour in the West and the oil-producers' cartel—each of which demands a larger share of the world's resources in return for what it produces. Such is the true conflict of interest which the projected conference between oil producers and consumers will have to try and resolve, with the Third World countries pleading desperately that it be resolved to their benefit and not at their expense.

### David Wood

Mr Powell was right. It is one thing to ask the Boyle committee to restore the value of MPs' salaries after three years of the inflation that collectively they have helped to create. It is a wholly different thing to prepare the way for the taxpayer to pay the bills for research staffs that will do little more than puff up the self-importance of backbenchers, or for the activities of the parties outside Westminster.

Let us deal with the items in the package one by one. First, members' pay. There is no doubt that MPs are underpaid at a salary of £4,500, whether the test is the debts or to overtake some of the men who have to run, or compare with what legislators in virtually all other Western countries, large and small, are paid. True, not all MPs work full time at Westminster. True, there is a respectable argument that MPs should not be encouraged to divide themselves from life outside by becoming full-time legislators. True, some MPs find that membership of the House of itself opens the way to directorships, consultancies, public relations, or journalism. At the House could not work unless more than half its members gave their days and nights in its business. They are worthy of their hire.

That agreed, it must be added that in the past four or five years they have provided themselves with some very attractive tax-free benefits which some members now regard as more worthwhile than a regard as more worthwhile than a direct increase in salary: car allowance; secretarial and research allowance; subsistence allowance (for keeping two homes going); and London supplement. Nowadays, the £4,500 still compares with a low figure in the Civil Service. It should be raised.

Moved by the seasonal spirit, I should like to smile also at the proposal (it is no more than that) that members should have more research staffs than is now available to them at the taxpayers' expense.

The House of Commons already has an enlarged and admirable library and research staff, complete with cuttings and reports services; and its select committees increasingly have specialist advisers. Each member has specialist advisers. Each member has specialist advisers. Each member has specialist advisers. Each member has specialist advisers.

### Mr Short strips the Christmas tree

The day after an economic debate in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer said last week that next year the people would have to be fatter because they assuredly would not be fatter, Mr Short, Leader of the House, assembled the Commons round the glittering Christmas tree and distributed as never before with good things.

Members' salaries, he announced, would be referred to the saintly Edward Boyle and the choir of angels who form his Review Body on Top Salaries. A select committee would be established to examine how the taxpayer could foot the bill for providing research assistance for backbenchers. About £200,000 a year would be made available to opposition parties to finance their constituencies at Westminster. And an independent committee would explore ways for the taxpayer "to assist political parties in carrying out their functions outside Parliament."

Mr Short will never come closer to having a grateful House placing a commemorative statue in the Members' Lobby, somewhere near the Churchill arch, the choicest place of honour. There was a comely embarrassment, of course, here and there as backbenchers rose to whisper "Thank you, Santa" and a faint blush on cheeks grown wan in late-night sittings. Only two backbenchers misbehaved, as some children will at the best of Christmas parties. Mrs Audrey Wise, a Labour housewife from Coventry, did not want her present if her constituents could not have one too. Mr Enoch Powell, who after 34 years away from his Chair has not forgotten the importance of distracting Greeks-hearing gifts, immediately tore open the gift wrapping, found something he thought questionable, and said the House should debate the Christ-

mas tree and what Mr Short was up to.

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### Tax exemptions for charities

From Sir Philip Allen  
Sir, As Chairman of the National Council of Social Service representing some 180 national charities and over 8,000 local ones, and after consulting the voluntary organizations, I write to express my grave concern about the provisions in the recently published Finance Bill dealing with charities and Capital Transfer tax. There is one proposal in particular on which I should like to comment in your columns.

The White Paper on this tax stated that the scale of exemption for charities under it "will not be less generous than it is at present for Estate Duty purposes." But we do not think that this has been achieved. The Finance Bill provides for the total amount over £50,000 given in addition capital gifts in his lifetime to be taxed at half-rate; whereas under the arrangements which the Finance Bill replaces, sums of up to £50,000 left to a charity will be free of estate duty, and in addition capital gifts in the possession of any amount will be tax free. (Both under the old legislation and under the Bill, the concessions do not apply if the gift is made within one year of death.)

There can be no doubt that this new provision worsens the position for charities. It would seriously discourage the creation of new charitable trusts; and it would penalize any large gifts to existing charities.

Successive governments have encouraged the flow of private money to charities by granting tax concessions. It seems ironic that this policy should be changed at the very time that charities, hard hit by inflation, are having to consider reducing their activities and when there is an even greater need for voluntary service in the community generally. Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP ALLEN, Chairman,  
The National Council of Social Service,  
26 Bedford Square, WC1.

### Britain and the Middle East

From the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews  
Sir, Bernard Levin has missed the point (article, December 17). The Board of Deputies is campaigning to preserve the freedom of the Jewish community—and indirectly that of all other minority groups—and to have an equal say in decisions such as that which we have referred to the Race Relations Board and to the Attorney General.

Even advertisers have themselves long since accepted that they must comply with basic standards of morality and accuracy. Newspapers—such as your own—frequently refuse advertisements which they regard as not achieving these standards, or accept such advertisements only if altered. This is rightly regarded as necessary to the public interest and not as a "restriction on freedom of speech". Indeed, the Trade Descriptions Act imposes a basic responsibility on media for advertisements carried by them. Is this "censorship"?

For the Jewish community, the protection of its good name is of infinitely greater worth than the goods and services included in the Trade Descriptions Act. If the Race Relations Act does not cover the case of the scurrilous, racialist advertisements handed in by Dr Mebdi (December 19), who has listed a corper of the blanket of anonymity which has so far cloaked his committee—and who are its members? He writes that the gist of what the advertisement is saying is that "British Jews"—not, please note, British Zionists, who (baptily) include large numbers of British non-Jews—is financing indiscriminate bombing of refugees under the guise of charity and at the expense of the Inland Revenue. That is precisely the kind of slander which your board considers should not have been carried in your paper.

Yours faithfully,  
FISHER OF CAMDEN,  
Woburn House,  
Upper Woburn Place, WC1,  
December 20.

for feeling run down on racial grounds.

The Palestinian Arabs, sir, are no barbarians. They are a civilized people whose ancestors carried the torch of civilization long before Europe evolved its now commendable and noble values. Paradoxically our contacts with Europe, first with the Crusades, then with the British mandate and then as a result with the Zionist movement, have hardly contributed to our cherished standards of morality.

Since the invasion of our homeland by the Zionist movement we have been steadily pushed into committing acts which we would have previously unequivocally condemned. For in Palestine, the Jewish people often great makers of history, have refused to learn their lesson from it, and have accepted to apply persecution in its crudest forms against the Palestinians. The true friends of the Jewish people would be those who had the courage to tell them that Zionism is wrong, very wrong, and that now is the time for abandoning it.

Yours sincerely,  
MOHAMMAD TARBUSCH,  
c/o Box 236/1163, American University, Beirut.

From Mr Jon Knucke  
Sir, May I draw the attention of Dr Mebdi and his Committee to a genuine and glaring case of Middle Eastern injustice to which they might devote their next planned advertisement?

According to the Annual Report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East the total amount which the Agency has received (and spent) in the 25 years from 1950 to 1974 to feed and educate the Palestine Refugees in its camps in 1975. In these 25 years \$25m out of the \$925m has been contributed by all the Arab States.

During the same period the United States contributed \$570m, the United Kingdom \$35m, Canada \$32m, West Germany \$26m, Sweden \$33m, France \$21m and Israel \$5m.

The contribution of the opulent oil producing countries to the well-being of their unfortunate Palestinian brethren was of a somewhat different dimension. Over these 25 years Saudi Arabia subscribed \$5m, Kuwait \$4m, Abu Dhabi \$1m, Bahrain \$400,000, Iraq \$900,000 and Libya \$1m. Of the out-of-fortune Arab States, the Lebanon contributed \$1m, Syria \$2m and Egypt, while Nasser was alive, \$5m. Since President Sadat took over, Egypt has made no contribution to the relief of the Palestine Refugee Fund of the UN. The Soviet Union and the Soviet Block countries, excepting Romania, have not contributed at all.

Dr Mebdi and his associates should have no difficulty in placing an advertisement drawing attention to the glaring contradiction between the contribution of the Arab contribution to the well-being of the Palestine Refugees and to their respective appeal for funds—the latest one only a few days ago—from the UN Commissioner-General, though they might have some trouble in having the advertisement published in Egypt or Saudi Arabia or Libya or Syria. But then is this not the season for taking note of "the beam that is in thine own eye"?

Yours faithfully,  
JON KNUCKE,  
Camilla Lacey Lodge,  
Westhumble, Dorking,  
Surrey,  
December 19.

### Dyslexic children

From Professor O. L. Zangwill  
Sir, Caroline Moorehead's article on dyslexia and reading problems (December 9) provides an admirably balanced account of contemporary views about backwardness in reading and its management. Yet to say that there is a continuum spanning the wide range of reading disabilities, from fluent readers to those with severe difficulties, while it may well be true, is hardly helpful.

Those who hold such a view appear to have been impressed by the large number of factors which, alone or in combination, appear to contribute to backwardness in reading, and by the failure to date to link any particular grade or kind of such backwardness with any particular factor or combination of factors. Yet it must be borne in mind that every diverse physical illness may produce identical symptoms, for example malaise and fever, and there is a sense in which illness per se might be said to form a continuum from mild to severe, the effect of which is not and would hardly help us to understand their respective aetiologies and so provide a rationale for treatment.

In the case of reading backwardness, there is now a great deal of evidence suggesting that in a certain proportion of children so afflicted there is a history of slow acquisition of language, difficulty in coordinating speech sounds with appropriate visual symbols and excessive difficulty in learning to spell. This difficulty, which affects boys much more often than girls, so commonly runs in families, suggests that heredity may play some part in its origin. In other cases, it is clearly secondary to minor damage to the brain sustained at birth or in early infancy, which so often is in a condition that the term dyslexia is properly applied and which serves to mark it off from backwardness in reading due to poor intelligence, lack of educational opportunity or emotional disorder, the effects of which are rather than at the physical level. It merits sympathy and concern, no less than greatly increased research into its origin, nature and—above all—remedial treatment.

Yours faithfully,  
O. L. ZANGWILL,  
Department of Experimental Psychology,  
University of Cambridge,  
The Psychological Laboratory,  
Downing Street,  
Cambridge,  
December 12.

### Legal education

From Professor C. F. Parker  
Sir, Your Legal Correspondent finds it difficult to be optimistic as to the future of the legal profession to adapt itself to the changing needs of our society which have been so expertly and so forcibly stated by Sir Leslie Scarman in his recent Hamlyn lectures.

At the end of his last lecture, Sir Leslie addressed himself in particular to the subject of legal education, "the key to the survival of the rule of law as a living and socially relevant force". It may therefore be of interest, and of some comfort, to know that the university law schools, which are in fact supplying a substantial majority of entrants into both branches of the practising profession, are already meeting this challenge, both by embracing and developing new fields of law within their curricula and by reviewing the traditional fields in the light of recent and continuing social, political and economic change.

All the fields of law mentioned by Sir Leslie as being of current significance are subjects of study by so-called "academic" lawyers. To mention two specifically, industrial relations were the theme of another Hamlyn series of Hamlyn lectures given by Professor Kahn-Freund in 1972, while it was my own Faculty in Exeter which, thanks to the vision and industry of some of my colleagues, pioneered courses on the law of the European Economic Community.

No doubt, as graduates who have received the benefits of such a wider and more enlightened legal education enter the practising branches of the profession, we shall see a greater adaptability developing within those branches which may

### Electing a Tory leader

From Mr Chris Gent  
Sir, To those Conservatives like myself who have been striving to make the party more open and democratic the new system for selecting the leader comes as no surprise. Like many other aspects of the party's organization the proposals are cumbersome and fundamentally undemocratic.

Undemocratic because even if a candidate achieves an overall majority on the first ballot a second vote is mandatory. Unfair because at the second ballot fresh candidates can present themselves, thereby ensuring that MPs never have a full range of choices from which to make a decision. The infighting and tactical voting this system encourages can only make a public spectacle of the party.

Cumbersome because after those two ballots a third vote may well be necessary, and there must be an endorsement from the Lords and national union as well, before a new leader is confirmed. It would be hard to design a system better suited to project the party's disarray to the voting public. The bias created by these ballots will give the media an ideal opportunity to exploit the divisions which must be created within the party.

A far more simple, efficient and democratic system would be to have one vote based on the transferable vote system as previously recommended for the third ballot. One thing is certain, that unless the proposals are drastically amended the social committee will soon be sitting again to design a more soundly based and enduring system.

Yours sincerely,  
CHRIS GENT, Chairman,  
Greater London Young Conservatives,  
32 Smith Square, SW1,  
December 19.

### Jailed pickets

From Mr H. Justin Evans  
Sir, Mr Leo Murray's indication at the so-called victimization of the jailed pickets would be more convincing if he showed signs of having read the court evidence that led to their conviction. In view of the behaviour of the men concerned, it would seem more appropriate if the TUC were to use their influence to see that men guilty of such conduct should be expelled from trade union membership, not represented as martyrs in the cause of freedom.

Yours faithfully,  
H. JUSTIN EVANS,  
Glebe House,  
Church Streeton,  
Salisbury,  
December 19.

### Saving electricity

From Mr K. I. Meldrum  
Sir, A means of economizing in the use of electricity by using sodium lamps is being advocated (The Times, Monday, December 16). Other perhaps even more obvious means are available.

The lighting of Albert Bridge to produce an effect which would not be out of place in Battersea Park or Blackpool Promenade is not only a waste of power but an affront to the artistic opportunities that discreet lighting can offer. By removing the strings of light bulbs but retaining the interior illumination on the pillars not only would there be a significant saving in electricity but the night time appearance of the bridge would be appreciably enhanced.

A particularly ironic waste of electricity can be seen, only too obviously, in the parish of illumination of the GLC offices. The subtle lighting of Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament, by contrast, show how carefully planned lighting can improve an environment.

Yours faithfully,  
K. I. MELDRUM,  
The Old Bulls Head,  
Buxworth,  
Derbyshire,  
December 16.

### Queen's English

From Mr Dominick Harrod  
Sir, As we peer from our side of the barricades in apprehension wondering which of our number will next fall victim to the shears of your contributor Mr Levin, it suddenly becomes apparent that our mentor in the matter of broadcasting English is not one, but several.

Else how could Mr Levin report today offences against his sensibility by a broadcaster's pronunciation on BBC Radio 4, The World Tonight, and on The News at Ten both on December 11.

Perhaps Mr Levin has developed stereophonic ears, the better to appreciate the nuances of English and to monitor our lips on several channels at once.

Unfortunately his vision does not match his hearing. Otherwise I am sure he would not have committed, in the past, the errors of his mis-spelling.

Yours etc,  
DOMINICK HARROD,  
British Broadcasting Corporation,  
Broadcasting House, W1,  
December 19.

### From Mr Reginald Bosanquet

Sir, Service message to the G. Levin: go to the G. runnery. Yours faithfully,  
REGINALD BOSANQUET,  
1 King's House,  
396 King's Road, SW10,  
December 20.

### Westminster Cathedral choir

From the Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral  
Sir, I would welcome an opportunity to establish the facts about the choir of Westminster Cathedral. The choir choir is supported partly by the Diocese of Westminster, and partly by the fees of parents. The men's choir is financed by the Cathedral.

Although there is no intention of closing the choir school, all the men's choir are under three months' notice. If this is carried out, it will mean the end of the Cathedral's musical tradition.

The men's choir consists of seven professional choristers, each paid £1200 per annum. Because of inflation they have asked for this to be increased to £1380. If this were granted, the total expenditure on the men's choir would be £9,660 per annum.

There is a possibility of launching a national appeal for the choir in two years' time. This means that keeping the men's choir intact until then would involve finding £20,000 over a two year period. Surely, this is not a great amount of money?

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN MAWBAY,  
Westminster Cathedral,  
42 Francis Street, SW1,  
December 21.

### Public lending right

From Sir Robert Lusty  
Sir, What a pity it is that Mr Bunting's opposition to the Public Lending Right should be couched in such intemperate terms (December 17). There are too many warring factions in the world of today without inventing others.

Mr Bunting is entitled to his views on the Public Lending Right which most regard as a simple matter of justice which it is none the less necessary to correct ere should the means of doing so appear involved and complicated.

But Mr Bunting should not refer to a "system which leaves authors at the mercy of their publishers". No author is at the mercy of his publisher, and no publisher is known to me would willingly publish for an author who believes this to be true. Publishing, if it is anything, is a unique adventure in collaboration and cooperation with the com-

### mon and identical purpose of getting across to as many as possible what it is that the author wishes to say.

There are many other views in force between the closest of allies. There can be no divergence of purpose. The author, if dissatisfied, has on all occasions the right to sue for damages of competing publishers, and if among them he cannot find one with whom he can feel on terms of equal partnership it is not, I suggest, the system which is wrong. It could be Mr Bunting and his manuscript.

The world today talks too much of the things which unite it. If only at this time of year, it is worth reflecting on the things which unite it.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT LUSTY,  
The Old Silk Mill,  
Blockley,  
Moreton-in-Marsh,  
Gloucestershire.





Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization & week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Dec 9. Dealings End Today. Contango Day, Dec 24. Settlement Day, Jan 7.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in the stock quoted)



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Table of Commonwealth and Foreign funds with columns for Name, Price, Change, and Dividend.

Table of Local Authorities with columns for Name, Price, Change, and Dividend.

Table of Foreign Stocks with columns for Name, Price, Change, and Dividend.

Table of Dollar Stocks with columns for Name, Price, Change, and Dividend.

Table of Banks and Discounts with columns for Name, Price, Change, and Dividend.

Table of Breweries and Distilleries with columns for Name, Price, Change, and Dividend.

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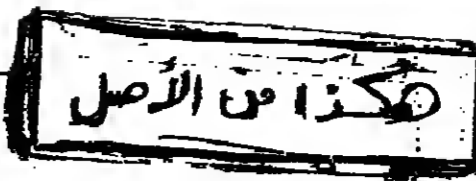
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# THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS



Keith Cardale, Groves & Co.  
Chartered Surveyors  
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## CONCRETE LAINING LOCAL OR NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION SERVICE

### Consumer nations may be allowed to defer payment on 25pc of crude

Edward Townsend

Oil Minister, said the country now effectively owned the whole of the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), in which British Petroleum and Gulf Oil of the United States both have 20 per cent stakes.

This follows the ending of the two-tier pricing system under which the two companies paid taxes and royalties on their share of the output and bought back oil from the government's share of production at a different price.

Last week, Mr al-Antiqi announced a single price of \$10.5 a barrel for BP and Gulf, and said at a company ceremony on Saturday that in the new situation, the two companies now had the status of "most favoured customers".

But he did not refer to the possibility of a new agreement between Kuwait and the two companies.

BP and Gulf each retained a 20 per cent share in KOC under the participation agreement which came into effect last January, giving Kuwait the remaining 60 per cent controlling interest. Under the two-tier price system, which operates in all other big Gulf states, oil from the companies' share of output was much cheaper than that from the government's share.

Mr al-Antiqi said although two weeks ago Kuwait had two partners owning 40 per cent of KOC, they had now become customers enjoying favoured treatment "by virtue of the friendly business relations between us". BP and Gulf would get priority treatment not exceeding 30 cents a barrel, he said.

The Kuwait minister said the KOC ownership had become an actual and practical matter faster than was expected. Kuwait's National Assembly, when agreeing to lift the country's stake in KOC to 60 per cent, expected full control not to be delayed beyond 1973.

Reports yesterday from Qatar, another Gulf state, where oil companies have held oil concessions for many years, said that the government was to take over all remaining rights and revenues of the KOC.

In Qatar, immediate negotiations have opened which the companies, involving Qatar taking over the remaining 40 per cent of Shell's operations and of the Qatar Petroleum Company, in which Shell, BP, Exxon, Mobil and Compagnie Française des Pétroles participate.

### BLMC gets Spanish approval for Authi sale

From Henry Debelius, Madrid, Dec 22

General Franco's government has approved the sale of British Leyland's Spanish subsidiary, Authi, to General Motors.

A high official of the Ministry of Industry reportedly said on Saturday night: "There was agreement at the cabinet meeting on Friday about the conditions in which General Motors may take over Authi".

The official, Señor Miranda, director general of steel and shipbuilding, was quoted today by the press and respectable non-archivist daily ABC.

He did not reveal what the "conditions" are, but he did say that the deal worked out last year between the British and the American companies, and which has been awaiting government approval, "calls for a change in existing legislation".

Car industry sources also privately confirmed that the deal had been approved by a government body, despite opposition from other car manufacturers already established in Spain, who fear competition from the American giant. Approval came after a government-inspired plan for a consortium of Spanish car manufacturers to buy Authi for less than the £27.5m offered by General Motors fell through.

Last week, protesting British Leyland employees staged a strike at the Authi plant near the northern city of Santander, and warned that if authorization for the sale to GM did not come soon "there will be tensions which might endanger social peace".

Earlier this month, Authi workers' representatives claimed, after a meeting in Madrid with the minister in charge of Spain's obligatory state-run trade unions, Señor Alejandro Fernandez Sorde, that British Leyland had been obliged to transfer £1m to the British home office in Spain in order to meet the Christmas payroll of the shaly Spanish subsidiary.

The workers' representatives called the situation of British Leyland in Spain "unbearable".

British Leyland distributors and employees in Spain, as well as local and provincial authorities where the factories are located, this month joined in a campaign to force BLMC to resign its director, Mr Carlos Arias Navarro, calling for a rapid decision on the long-delayed GM offer.

Roger Berthoud writes from Brussels: A fine of 100,000 francs of about £20,000 is being imposed on General Motors Continental, Belgium offshoot of General Motors by the European Commission for abuse of its dominant position on the Belgian market.

The 13-man commission on Friday, but has not yet been officially announced. The commission, which has powers to punish infringement of the Treaty of Rome's rules on fair competition and subsidies, is using them to open proceedings against GMC NV of Antwerp, in July.

It claimed General Motors Continental had been charging an excessive fee for issuing certificates of conformity for Opel cars brought into Belgium by independent (ie non-GMC) importers.

Under Belgian law, GMC Continental has the sole right to issue the certificates, which are required before imported vehicles can be driven on Belgian roads.

By imposing the fine the commission has demonstrated its belief that parallel imports are in the interest of competition and of the consumer and should be safeguarded.

No aid for Holden: There will be no direct government financial aid for General Motors Holden, the Australian-based car manufacturing firm, declared Mr Jim Cairns, Deputy Prime Minister, today. He made it clear that the Government's main effort would be to help the retrenchment of 5,000 GMH workers.

British Leyland successes: British Leyland tonight announced that it had won 10m worth of orders for trucks and buses from four African states in the past three months.

A spokesman said Nigeria, Ghana, Sudan and Zaïre had signed contracts of between £950,000 and £3,750,000.

### Report will detail Crown Agents' problems in Australia and assess link with property group

By Maurice Corina, Industrial Editor

A full report, now being prepared by Mr John Cuckney, chairman of Crown Agents, at the specific request of the Government, will detail substantial and as yet undisclosed problems which have beset the agents in Australia. It is to include a detailed assessment of a close association with one of Britain's biggest property groups, Capital & Counties Property, and the present value of investments.

Mrs Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, has directed the new board for the Crown Agents not to engage directly in the property market or to exceed existing obligations.

She has to decide whether the partnership between Capital & Counties, whose chairman is Sir Richard Thompson, the Conservative MP, and Crown Agents can continue without revisions to their terms. The partnership was set up in 1971 for property developments across Australia. Crown Agents have already drastically written down their portfolio of Australian investments.

Five years ago the board of Crown Agents decided as a matter of policy to direct the interest of their many overseas principals (mainly governments and public authorities) towards investment in the Australian property market as well as stocks.

This decision was supported by two specific moves. These were the formation of Westra International, a new merchant bank and finance house based in Perth. The other move was the creation of Abbey Orchard Property Investments to undertake a £56m development programme.

Subsequently, some complex negotiations took place in London between Crown Agents representatives and Capital & Counties which had longer experience of Australian property development. The outcome played some part in Canberra's decision to stop all new outside investment in real estate.

Towards the end of 1971 Crown Agents formally concluded five contracts with Capital & Counties whereby the former would put up £10m for development deals based on the latter's expertise.

Together they formed Abbey Capital Properties, with Crown Agents owning 48 per cent of the shares against 26 per cent for Capital & Counties, the

rest being taken up by other investors. Under the contracts the British property company then exchanged a 20 per cent stake in its Australian enterprise, Capital & Counties (Australia), in return for 17.5 per cent reciprocal holding in Crown Agents' original concern, Abbey Orchard Properties.

It was now the Crown Agents' responsibility to provide the necessary £10m for a commercial development programme ranging across the big cities of Australia. The deal envisaged an eventual merger of all three companies by 1975.

All the necessary negotiations were taking place as Parliament began to express some disquiet over Crown Agents' dealings elsewhere, largely in the British property and secondary banking market. Those events led to the establishment of a Select Committee inquiry into the structure of Crown Agents.

Earlier in 1971 the Crown Agents-backed merchant bank in Australia — Westra International — was involved in the collapse of Mineral Securities, which owed the bank money. It was Westra which moved for liquidation of Mineral Securities.

In 1972 Crown Agents raised

### Joint action call to avert 'calamity' on oil costs

By Melvyn Westlake

In the starkest analysis yet of the perilous situation created by the oil price increases, an authoritative group of monetary experts suggest there is very little time left in which to avert the calamity confronting the world community.

The experts, writing in an American quarterly journal, *Foreign Affairs*, say that the brinkmanship that has resulted from the oil price crisis, and particularly employed by the United States, is simply not a workable approach.

In the end all the countries will have to act in a reasonably concerted manner if solutions are to emerge. Effective solutions will almost certainly require major new methods and institutions, they argue.

In all likelihood, unless further approaches on cooperative action are made within the next few months, some oil importing countries will have run out of goods to sell, or markets to reach, or capacity to borrow to cover their deficits, and a number may be unable to meet the servicing costs on the enlarged debt.

Whether that would result in currency devaluations, in default by banking and business firms in those countries, in national debt moratoria, or in political revolution and debt repudiation, the entire structure of world payments and of trade and financial relationships, would certainly be fractured, the group say.

The experts include Mr Robert Roosa, Under Secretary of the United States Treasury for Monetary Affairs in 1962-64; Mr Khodadad Farmanfarmaian, chairman of the Development Industrial Bank of Iran; Professor Armin Gutowski, who is on the board of advisers to the Federal Economic Ministry, Germany; and Professor Goro Okada, chairman of the Japan Economic Research Centre, Tokyo; and Professor Carroll Wilson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

They say that over the five years from 1973 to 1979, the world's oil-importing countries would pay the producers a total of at least \$600,000m (about £270,000m). By contrast, the sum of all the merchandise exported last year by all the oil importing countries which are members of the International Monetary Fund was less than \$500,000m.

The experts rule out energy conservation as an answer to the crisis, while increased trade with oil producers would help only marginally, they say. At the same time, if nations act individually it is not conceivable, the experts argue, that most of the oil importing countries can find inflows of capital to match their oil deficits. Moreover, even if the price of oil was reduced from \$10 a barrel to \$8 or even \$6 a barrel, this would still not reduce the transfer burden of oil consumers to manageable proportions.

Of these conclusions have been coaxed from the public during the past year, the writers suggest. Although the public alarm of a year ago has waned, they believe that 1974 is likely to prove to have been a last year.

The writers conclude that what is needed is a means of assisting the direct flow of oil-producer funds into the capital investment property in this country seems no longer to hold, according to Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House Investments.

Writing in the company's annual report, Mr Brookes states that although this does not mean that today's leading companies will disappear or that their shares should be sold at today's market level, the traditional property company is now to be taxed to such an extent that it becomes the least attractive medium through which to hold such investments.

Mr Brookes goes on to describe the new taxes on property as an over reaction by successive governments to a situation that no longer exists.

Financial News, page 17

### French concern over coastal oil dispute

Brest, Dec 22.—Millions of tons of oil are believed to lie off the north-western coast, but the French are concerned because a single barrel of oil produced because of a dispute between France and Britain.

Despite his call for a speedy start to exploration, the President will have to await the international arbitration which could take about two years.

Another reason for delay is that French oil companies have not yet concentrated their efforts in the area, mainly because they fear they might become British. Since they started discussions, British and French negotiators have been far apart in their proposals to share the area.

According to the 1958 Geneva Convention, the dividing line of a continental shelf should be at equal distance from the coastal lines of the two countries concerned. But the problem is complicated by various off-shore islands.

French President said: "The prospects for exploitation are good. If we find oil off the coast of Brittany it can change many things for the French economy."

Since 1968, ecologists have been preparing a map of a so-called "Iroise Sea", about 100 miles off the Breton coast.

Brest, where several oil companies have exploration rights, this sector is believed to contain sufficient oil to solve France's energy problems for years.

But Britain has contested the ownership of the area and is sending international arbitrators to settle the question of offshore exploitation.

Last month, President Giscard d'Estaing noted that the dispute between France and Britain over oil exploration has limited but made progress difficult, but this was noted in the hands of experts, he said.

During a visit to Brest, the

### Private steel sector is poised to raise prices

By Peter Hill

Most of Britain's private sector steel producers hope to put up prices early next month in the wake of the British Steel Corporation's increases.

Generally, prices of steel products in the private sector were about 15 per cent more than the BSC before the state steel concern announced last week that higher tariffs would be introduced from January 2. These will produce an additional £300m in a full year.

During the past few days since the announcement independent producers have been lodging notices of price increases in Brussels.

In most cases the increases made by the private sector will bring United Kingdom independent prices to BSC levels, although in one or two cases they could be higher.

The wide range of increases being introduced by the BSC have important implications for the private sector, who buy steel from the corporation. Forging agents, bought by independent forgers from the corporation will rise by about 35 per cent, while billets will cost re-rollers in the private sector about 25 per cent more.

Re-rollers are seriously concerned about the corporation's inability to meet their demands which in recent months have

### CBI moves to postpone part of higher effluent treatment costs

By Derek Harris

With evidence of rapidly rising costs of effluent treatment under the reorganized water authorities increasing, the Confederation of British Industry plans urgent talks with the Government on postponing part of the burden.

While no bills for next year have gone out, informal consultations between water authorities and individual companies have indicated possible rises of as much as 500 per cent. One East Midlands textile company has told the CBI it could face a 900 per cent rise of full adjustment in 1975.

A typical 250-employee textile or chemical company would be paying up to £4,000 a year for effluent processing. A big pharmaceutical company could see its bills multiplying by a cost base of about £50,000.

Many engineering companies in the West Midlands have expressed disquiet to the regional CBI there because of the scale of the charges.

The CBI has already sent a warning on the threat to industrial costs to the Department of the Environment, under whose auspices the 10 new water authorities operate. The CBI is anxious that steep increases should be phased over several years.

Mr Roy Marindale, technical adviser in the CBI's company affairs directorate, said: "What is causing the trouble is the rate at which individual water authorities seem to want to move in raising charges to cope with inflation and to equalize charges in their area."

In the North-West and Thames areas, the policy adopted by the officers seems more in line with the recommendations of the Jukes Committee, which has suggested that equalization should be phased over a couple of years. They would not appear to be going for precipitate change or to act before they have talked it over with us."

He added: "Generally speaking there is a sad lack of proper information in some respects about the whole issue. Charges should reflect how much service is actually rendered to an individual company."

The CBI is particularly questioning the desirability of the basing of general service charges, levied in addition to a trade effluent charge, on ratable values.

There has been anxiety that the Severn-Trent Water Authority would bring in immediate rises next year which in some cases could mean a 500 per cent jump in charges. The authority has subsequently said this would be undesirable in one year and that discussions would continue on phasing the increases.

The CBI is calling talks of its members in that area for next month to add to evidence already collected of the possible extent of the increased cost problem. Further consultation with the Severn-Trent authority is then expected to be called for urgently.

Further talks with the North-West authority are scheduled for early January.

Water authorities have inherited substantial debts which high servicing charges from the many smaller authorities responsible for water supply and treatment until April last year. They are committed to extensive capital expenditure programmes, while inflation in wages and other costs have also hit their finances.

Mr Marindale added: "There are some areas—in the North-West and North-East for instance—where under the old regime, industrialists were waived effluent charges to encourage them to set up in development areas. We accept that in this sort of situation, companies will have to shoulder a fair share of the burden."

### Trafalgar chief says property now overtaxed

By Our Financial Staff

The raison d'être for a public company holding and developing investment property in this country seems no longer to hold, according to Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House Investments.

Writing in the company's annual report, Mr Brookes states that although this does not mean that today's leading companies will disappear or that their shares should be sold at today's market level, the traditional property company is now to be taxed to such an extent that it becomes the least attractive medium through which to hold such investments.

Mr Brookes goes on to describe the new taxes on property as an over reaction by successive governments to a situation that no longer exists.

Financial News, page 17

**MINERALS AND RESOURCES CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(Formerly Zambian Anglo American Limited)  
(Incorporated in Bermuda)

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF ZAMBIAN ANGLO AMERICAN LIMITED ORDINARY SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER, EXCHANGE OF SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER, AND COUPONS

With reference to the notice to shareholders advertised in the press on 7th August, 1974, concerning the change of name of the company, holders of share warrants to bearer are advised that new share warrants to bearer, issued on 13th January, 1975, will be available for issue on 13th January, 1975. Holders of the existing warrants should therefore surrender the warrants, with coupons Nos. 80-90 and 100-104 attached in accordance with the following instructions:

In the United Kingdom  
Existing share warrants, coupons and coupons should be surrendered for exchange to the London Share Reception Office of Charter Consolidated Limited, 7 Rollo Buildings, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 3DF, on 2nd January, 1975, and the surrendering and letting forms in accordance with the instructions thereto. Existing coupons should be surrendered to the London Share Reception Office on 2nd January, 1975, and the surrendering and letting forms in accordance with the instructions thereto.

In accordance with Bank of England Exchange Control Regulations, such share warrants to bearer should already be controlled by a licence, which should be surrendered for exchange to the London Share Reception Office in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Gibraltar.

Outside the United Kingdom  
Existing share warrants, coupons and coupons may also be surrendered to the corporation's representative continental paying agent, from whom surrender and letting forms can be obtained, at the following address: Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Limited, 5 & 8 Boulevard Haussmann, Paris 8e.

New share warrants to bearer issued in exchange for those surrendered and stamped with United Kingdom ad valorem duty, will be borne by the stamped at the substituted rate and cost thereof.

For and on behalf of  
**ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED**  
London Secretaries  
London Office: 40 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1JL.  
United Kingdom Share Registrar: Charter Consolidated Limited, P.O. Box 102, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0EX.  
Charles House, Park Street, Adelaide, South Australia 5000.

23rd December, 1974

### Japan backs NRDC carbon fibre patent

By Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

Japan's Patent Office has ruled in favour of Britain's National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) in a dispute over a carbon fibre patent.

A third implication is that possible infringements of the NRDC patent by other Japanese companies will be investigated. Sub-licensing arrangements with such companies with Tokai will clearly be a possibility.

Overall, the NRDC view is that the Japanese decision will strengthen the corporation's hand considerably.

Germany is the only major carbon fibre patent still being opposed. In the United States legal action has been taken by the corporation against Great Lakes Corpora-

### Japan backs NRDC carbon fibre patent

tion for alleged infringement; this action is still continuing.

The NRDC's patents cover original work by scientists at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough. After initial over-exposure as a result of the patent, some years ago, carbon fibre now seems set to become a substantial earner for the corporation.

Clifford Webb writes: The Department of Trade is testing an automatic distress transmitter and life support system for ships which it made compulsory equipment for all vessels over 100 tons. The transmitter, known as the Search Initiator Buoy it is already being manufactured by Lucas Marine International, the Vancouver-based subsidiary of the Joseph Lucas group.

**THE STOCKHOLDERS INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED**  
Managers—JOHN GOVETT & CO. LIMITED

Five-year summary of results

Year ended	Earnings	Dividend	Asset Value Inc. 100% Investment	Currency Premium
1970	6.7	6.50	314	
1971	6.91	6.75	356	
1972	6.84	7.00	446	
1973	5.44	5.00	421	
1974	6.56	5.50	238	

TOTAL NET RESOURCES £32,851,165  
U.K. 53% NORTH AMERICA 41% ELSEWHERE 4%

Points from Mr. C. W. Garnett's Statement  
—After adjusting for the repayment of foreign currency loans, total net resources have declined by 33%.  
—Income has risen from £1,647,482 to £2,045,494 which has enabled the Board to recommend a final dividend of 4.0p making 5.50p for the year compared with 5.0p last year.  
—American companies in the oil service industry retain an important position in the Trust's portfolio.  
—Mr. Garnett intends to retire as Chairman and the Board have elected Mr. Michael Govett to take his place.  
—The Trust has substantial liquid resources to take advantage of more favourable conditions when they appear.

On other pages

- Appointments vacant 19
- Business appointments 17
- Diary in Europe 16
- Financial Editor 16
- Financial news 17, 18
- Letters 17
- Weekly Unit Trust prices 18
- Bank Base Rates Table 18
- Company Meeting Reports: Mairhead 17
- The Stockholders Investment Trust Whessoe 15
- Interim Statement: Matthew Hall & Co 16
- Prospectus: Bond Worth Holdings 17
- Company Announcement: Minerals and Resources Corporation 15

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

# Corporate liquidity: the position now

Can it really be only two months ago since the talk was all of Doomsday Machines? Was Mr Healey's November mini-Budget so far-reaching in its implications that it killed, at a stroke, all concern about how companies were going to fund their needs in 1975? Was the talk of a major liquidity crisis—indulged by the Bank of England, the CBI and at least one clearing bank in addition to the commentators—merely a scare mongering?

In so far as the great liquidity debate was influential in persuading the Chancellor to provide some £1,600m for the corporate sector and to make £1,000m available in the form of medium term finance, the panic achieved its immediate objective. But it is open to question whether the Chancellor's move alone has served to calm shattered nerves. The £800m benefited from the changed tax treatment of stock appreciation brings a welcome boost to cash-flow. But how far industry will be able to take advantage of the price end modifications (nationally worth a further £800m) during a period of falling demand is uncertain.

Equally unclear is whether there will be any significant call by industry upon the £1,000m fund which Finance For Industry is to manage.

But if Mr Healey's measures go nowhere near far enough in the context of a financial deficit in the corporate sector, surely the future of the industry is bleak. And although expenditure forecasts have also been downgraded—P & D is

the best. What heat remains is being steadily drained away by the slackening of economic activity.

This in itself, of course, is a by-product of corporate concern about its own cash position. The surplus built up during 1972 and 1973 turned into a yawning shortage this year with annual increases in the price of stocks being mostly to blame. According to the Bank of England, stock appreciation during the first half of 1974 comprised some 60 per cent of profits compared to only 10 per cent in 1968.

Impressive and alarming though these figures are, however, they have signally failed to generate the pressure on the banks that seemed certain some three or four months ago. As a significant supplier of funds the bank market has remained dead, although the banks have remained effectively the sole source of funds for most companies, lending statistics remain flat. In September they actually showed a decline, although they have risen modestly since.

None of this is to suggest that there will not be formidable liquidity problems during 1975. On the contrary, it could point in even lower 1975 profits and therefore lower cash-flow. Even since the mini-Budget, for instance, Phillips & Drew has revised its forecast of profits before depreciation from an unchangeable £13,700m in more like £15,200m. And although expenditure forecasts have also been downgraded—P & D is

going for broadly unchanged investment in real terms—they do not fully offset the profit deterioration. So the financial deficit seen on this basis could rise from £3,900m to £4,200m.

The key point, however, is that the relative lag in bank lending during the second half of the present year should leave the banks with a greater margin for stepping-up their lending next year. In his Budget, the Chancellor decided to stick with the "deposit corset" arrangements, introduced at the end of last year, for at least another six months. Under this scheme the banks have recently been allowed to expand their interest-bearing deposits by 1 per cent a month, but because of the comparatively slack demand have actually fallen far short of this ceiling. By mid-November the "corset" allowed them to expand by 15 per cent but deposits had actually only grown by 9.1 per cent. With this leeway available to be caught up next year, the system as currently structured looks capable of weathering the storm.

So it should not be surprising that bankers are entering 1975 with rather more confidence about their ability to meet industry financing needs than they were exhibiting three months ago. There will still be deep soul-searching within individual banks about the level of individual customers' overdrafts, but the pattern of recent business could point to most banks ending the present year with their balance-sheets showing less visible strain than obviously feared.

Rapid use of the world's resources by industrialized countries, accelerating increases in the populations of developing countries, the widening gap between the living standards of the two groups of countries, and growing poverty, starvation and unemployment in the latter may lead to disaster.

Given the inter-dependence between all countries and regions, global management of the world's resources is needed. The unorganized and unbalanced use of resources, by competing nations and private enterprises, is producing crisis situations which interact and reinforce each other, creating a global crisis.

If we do not start to develop global solutions now, those forced upon us in twenty to thirty years time will be far more costly—economically, and in terms of human suffering—and it may be too late to prevent disasters, or wars between groups competing for the world's limited resources.

These are the conclusions to be drawn from the new report to the Club of Rome, *Mankind at the Turning Point*, by Professor Hubert Mesarovic of Cleveland, Ohio, and Professor Edward Pestel of Hannover University.

It is possible to distinguish a number of emerging crisis situations:

Strong demand in many industrialized countries (temporarily weakening now) has brought excess capacity demand for raw materials and food, inflation and imbalance (and, therefore, unemployment) and over rapid use of depletable resources.

The energy crisis has similar effects, dependence on cheap oil having distorted economic development and made necessary abrupt structural changes and rapid exploitation of new sources of energy.

Population increases in some developing countries are overtaking food production and the creation of jobs and leading to starvation and unemployment.

The gap between the living standards of the industrialized and developing countries is widening and driving the poorest populations to despair.

Pollution is increasing and some of it may be causing irreparable damage to the environment (for example, products accumulating in the atmosphere may damage human health and affect the climate).

There is an institutional crisis, because economic and political institutions have failed to adapt to world interdependence.

A growing area of economic development is outside government's control.

The international institutions do not ensure the coordinated action of governments. The international

trade and payments systems are ineffective and subject to dislocation by small political groups.

A psychological and sociological crisis is developing because people do not feel responsible for the vast and complex system, material and organizational, of the industrial society: it is difficult to make parliamentary democracy work.

The potential dangers in such crises were summed up by Dr Kissinger in an interview with *The New York Times* on October 12: "If we do not get a recognition of our interdependence," he said, "the Western civilization that we now have is almost certain to disintegrate, because it will first lead to a series of crises in which each region will try to maximize its own special advantages."

"That, inevitably, will lead to tests of strength of one sort or another. These will magnify domestic crises in many countries, and they will then move from and more to authoritarian modes."

"I would expect that which will certainly have a crisis which no leadership is able to deal with, and probably military confrontations. But even if you do not have military confrontations, you will certainly, in my view, have systemic crises, similar to those of the 1930s and 1940s, but without consciousness as became global."

Public awareness of global problems and of the interactions between them has been promoted by the Club of Rome, an informal group of about one hundred scientists, economists, humanists, industrialists, etc., from about thirty countries, founded in 1968 by Dr Alexander King and Dr Aurelio Peccei.

An earlier report sponsored by the *Limits to Growth*, by Professor Meadows (published in 1972), must have given substance to the disquiet of many people, since four million copies have been sold.

The Club of Rome's reports are sometimes criticized as doom predictions, based on fallacious Malthusian and Ricardian economics. But they do not predict the future. They make projections, designed to reveal the dangers and provoke the policy responses which will ensure that the projections will not be realized.

The computer model of the world (divided into 10 regions) of which the new report is based, contains a causal structure of 100,000 equations concerning technical factors. It also has a decision structure, permitting the programming of judgments concerning possible economic, social and political reactions to alternative developments and policies.

Thus it provides policymakers with an efficient instrument, taking account of interactions between an enormous number of variables which can reveal

Hugh Stephenson

# Setting up a 'Coventry' in the City

Indeed, when the Takeover Panel Mark 1 was overwhelmed, there was no more effective opponent of Whitehall regulation of the City than Mr Anthony Crossland, then President of the Board of Trade.

The central problem, however, remains how to avoid a situation, the likelihood of which can only increase over time, where the Panel's authority is challenged: but to do so in a way which does not require volumes of new legislation and armies of new policemen. I understand that some legal minds, grappling with these problems, have turned to the possibilities inherent in the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act, 1958.

This Act, amongst other things, sets out the provisions for licensing those who deal in securities, including those for the refusal and revocation of a licence. The notion is that a sanction could be applied to those who defy the authority of the Takeover Panel, indirectly but effectively, by small modifications of this Act. At present the Department of Trade can revoke the

licence of any dealer in securities who commits a breach of the rules made by the Department under the Act.

It is suggested that, in future, these rules might be that no one should conduct business with a person who defies the Takeover Panel. There are, of course, all the traditional problems of the banned person, but it is probable that official exclusion from the British or Swiss securities market would be an effective sanction at the joint disposal of the Takeover Panel and the Department of Trade, simple in the extreme to administer.

The Act would then be used to force the City collectively to send an offence to financial Coventry. Usefully, the Act already contains its own appeals procedure in the form of a special tribunal of inquiry. Thus someone who dealt with the offender and was struck off, would not be subject to entire court proceedings. It is an avenue worth exploring, for certain it is the underlying problem will not go away.

Whitehall has neither the staff nor the experience to do the job efficiently and a prudent Secretary of State for Trade does not lightly put himself in a position where he will have to take detailed responsibility for and answer daily questions about the securities industry.

Since, in the eyes of most Labour MPs, the securities industry involves one of the few selling areas to another lot of Tories, there has never been the same interest in this particular aspect of possible government regulation as in others. (In marked contrast, there has been keen Labour interest in the regulation of such things as insurance, or the package holiday industry.)

# Trans-national institutions: a way towards solving global crisis of resources

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## Business Diary in Europe • A matter of conscience

Government planning in Italy has had an unhappy history. The state planning office, which comes under the Budget Ministry, is responsible for two voluminous five-year plans, for 1966-70 and 1971-75, but their targets have turned out to belong more to the world of dreams than reality.

Recently the head of Government Planning, Signor Giorgio Ruffolo, a Socialist, resigned in despondency at the way successive governments have disregarded the work of his office.

Now an eminent economist, Professor Paolo Sylos Labini, has announced his resignation from the planning office's technical and scientific committee, a consultative body composed of leading specialists in their fields. He has moved his decision on moral grounds—a rare event in Italian public life.

Americo who has run the show from Frankfurt.

Now Sherwood has decided to move on to other things, at present unspecified, and his successor is David Butler, director of operations for Diebold in London. Butler is an articulate computerman, previously with the Warwick consultancy, who has been an occasional contributor to *The Times*.

One of Butler's tasks will be to maintain the frighteningly high standard of organization of Diebold's European conferences, which form the backbone of the research programme. Until one has attended a Sherwood conference, one attender avers, one has not really conferred at all.

This was taken to a bizarre level at a recent meeting at the Heathrow hotel at London Airport. The conference hall here is equipped with bunker-like rows of electronic consoles behind which the audience hide. It is just possible for them to peer over the consoles at the platform speaker, but the system is designed for them to watch him on their personal video screens.

Part of the programme was a recording of a Sherwood interview with a computing expert. For about ten minutes, the hall was silent, as the audience listened over headphones to the interview—and viewed the platform speaker, also listening over his headphones, via their video screens.

Perhaps Butler will delete this refinement. Meanwhile, back in London, George Cox,

paper they use, compared with 26 per cent in the United Kingdom. Holland, together with Belgium, is traditionally a used paper exporting country.

The general crisis of raw materials has sent the price of used paper rocketing, and it has become important enough for Dutch Members of Parliament to lodge questions and for Rudolf Lubbers, Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs, to instruct those of his civil servants who are not busy chasing the ghost of inflation through the corridors of power to see how the wastepaper industry can be stabilized.

A couple of months ago waste paper was worth nearly 4p a kilo in The Netherlands. A hefty Saturday paper—the Dutch still do not have Sunday papers—was worth second-hand almost as much as you pay for it.

The enthusiasm for collecting paper reached such heights that paper boys were robbed on their rounds, delivery vans dared not leave papers outside newspapers, and sprightly little old ladies were caught nabbing the papers from the letter boxes in flats.

But the used paper merchants have run out of storage room and the market has virtually collapsed. Used paper now fetches less than 1p a kilo, but many collectors are boarding garages full of wastepaper, hoping for better times.

The Dutch, according to the minister, are considering following the Japanese example and introducing measures to stabilize the paper market. This could be a guaranteed minimum price, or an

agreement to store a percentage of the paper in government silos if the price fell.

Mr Mead returned to England fully briefed in the art of paper recycling. Perhaps he might try it with a few pound notes.

Free trips

One of the American State Department's happier ideas was to institute a series of free month-long trips to the United States for Europeans and others genuinely involved in relations between their country and America.

The so-called "leader groups" have been ditched out particularly generously to Brussels bureaucrats and journalists and were unthinkingly increased under the aegis of the endless variety of the United States and sympathy for some of its problems.

With the Germans showing the way with a reciprocal programme, there was considerable pressure for the EEC to do likewise. An experimental phase began recently, and the European Commission has now decided to boost numbers for the 1975 programme and to use it available to Canadians as well as Americans. As with the leader groups, the main beneficiaries will be politicians, journalists, trade unionists, economists, sociologists and civil servants.

All travel to EEC institutions and through the member states will be paid, as well as airfares. Let's hope they will be efficiently organized as the American operation.

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senior consultant, has succeeded Butler in managing Diebold's United Kingdom office.

Paper problem

A load of old rubbish it may be, but wastepaper is nowadays big business. Michael Mead, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Industry, and members of the advisory group on wastepaper recycling spent an instructive few days last week taking a closer look at how the Dutch collect and recycle their wastepaper and board.

The Dutch manage to collect some 38.5 per cent of the

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Paper problem

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## INTERIM STATEMENT

# Mathew Hall

### Interim Report

The Directors of Mathew Hall & Co. Limited announce the Group's results (unaudited) for the nine months ended 30th September 1974.

	Nine Months to 30.9.74	Nine Months to 30.9.73	Twelve Months to 31.12.73
Group Profit on Trading	987	968	1,785
Interest Receivable	224	156	262
Taxation	1,211	1,124	2,047
Minority (profit) loss of Subsidiary Companies	667	520	1,066
	544	604	981
	(4)	5	10
	540	609	991

The Board anticipates that the Group profit before taxation for the year 1974 will be approximately £2m.

In 1974 there has been a considerable increase in the activities of the Group, particularly with the Engineering Companies' additional workload, including multi-million pound North Sea Oil Offshore contracts. The Mechanical and Electrical Services Companies, both in the U.K. and in Australia, have continued their successful operations.

To cope with the continuing expansion of the Group, which has an all time record order book and anticipates still further multi-million pound contracts, Mr. P. L. Waite, Managing Director of Mathew Hall Engineering Limited, Mr. A. R. Brown, Managing Director of Mathew Hall Mechanical Services Limited and Mr. C. D. Watson, Managing Director of Holiday Hall & Co. Limited have been appointed Directors of the Parent Company, Mathew Hall & Co. Limited.

The Directors have declared an interim dividend of 1.3125p per share, which, together with its associated tax credit, is equivalent to a gross dividend of 1.999p per share (1973: 1.875p per share) and this will be paid on 12th February, 1975, to holders of Ordinary Shares registered at the close of business on 14th January, 1975.

Mathew Hall & Co. Ltd. Tottenham Court Road, London W1A 1BT



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Language as a tool for excluding others

Mr Alan Topalian... To add to Mr Younger's comments on the different languages used by management...

Fuel economy of Wankel engine can be competitive

Mr R. F. Ansdale... In discussions with the Japanese Environmental Agency, Toyo Kogyo, the manufacturers of Mazda cars...

Large pay settlements are made

Mr J. H. Birckett... by you, Sir) considered a cost could easily be considered a prudent investment.

WHESOE

Rt. Hon. Lord Erroll of Hala, Chairman, made the following points in his review for the twelve months ended 30th September, 1974, which has been circulated to shareholders.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Trafalgar will emerge with greater strength when better times come

By Our Financial Staff... Following up his forecast earlier in the month that the current year would produce pre-tax profits not less than £19.6m...

Specialization paying off for Williams Lea

By continued specialization the Williams Lea Group of printing companies improved pre-tax profits 29 per cent to £406,000...

Stronger N Sea base for Esso

To provide a more substantial base for its exploration and production in the North Sea, Esso Petroleum and Esso Exploration and Production...

Packaging costs

Mr H. Kendall... Mr Fisher's comments (22nd November) on the Commission's reference to the "high cost of packaging"...

Business appointments

Mr Christopher Chataway, the former MP and a managing director of Orion Bank, is to join the board of the British Electric Traction Company...

Commodities Soya bean meal futures market to open in mid-April

Can London sustain another commodity futures market? It takes a great deal of research and months of preparation to open a market but even when everything appears right it is by no means certain of success.

Black-Clawson back in profits

There is a return to profits at Black-Clawson International after six months' trading. On turnover up from £1.1m to £2.05m, this paper mill machinery maker...

Adda's half-time loss

Shares of Adda International dropped 2p on the news of a loss at half time of £169,000, against a profit of £247,000. Sales increased from £1.9m to £2.6m.

Briefly

CHARTERHOUSE IN GERMANY... HELENE OF LONDON... MUIRHEAD... CAPSEALS...

Muirhead Limited

The seventieth annual general meeting will be held today at 11 am at the Connaught Rooms, London W.C.1. Summary of Group results 1974 1973

By John Woodland

L. M. Fischel... Frank Fehr & Co... Goldschmidt & Charteris... HOLCO Trading...

The surplus now forecast reflects a 51 per cent reduction in seasonal grindings from 1,451,000 to 1,370,000 tons. Perhaps, G. & D. says, it might be thought that present prices would have produced a greater fall in consumption but 1974 prices when deflated are still considerably below the level of 1954.

Cocoa surplus forecast

London cocoa futures have remained strong throughout 1974 in the face of a supply deficit situation. Now this position is slowly but surely changing with Gill & Duffus recently forecasting a surplus of 22,000 tons in 1974-75 compared with a deficit of 43,000 tons in 1973-74.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange for the purpose of giving information to the public with regard to Bond Worth Holdings Limited. It does not constitute an invitation to the public to subscribe for or purchase any Stock.

BOND WORTH HOLDINGS LIMITED

Issue of up to £286,320 nominal of 12 per cent. Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock 1982. Application has been made to The Council of The Stock Exchange for permission for up to £286,320 nominal of 12 per cent. Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock 1982 to be admitted to the Official List.

Guinness Mahon & Co. Limited... Joseph Sebag & Co. 3 Queen Victoria Street London, EC4

Muirhead Limited

The key to the future prosperity of the Company lies in furthering its underlying technological base and an increased percentage of total resources has been committed to research and development.

Summary of Group results 1974 1973. Turnover 9500 8500. Profit before tax 810 803. Available profit 389 463. Dividends 164 152. Capital employed 7562 7358.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Year ends on a 'hot issue' note

A dreadful year for the Euro-bond market is ending with a hot issue, AP-Down Jones writes. The D3100m (nearly £18m) seven year offering of New Zealand Government bonds...

Euromarkets

However, the offering has been helped by this week's half-point reduction in the central bank's discount and Lombard rates and by expectations that short-term German interest rates will drop even further.

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

Table with columns for Country, Maturity, Yield, and Premium. Includes entries for Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, etc.

Table with columns for Country, Maturity, Yield, and Premium. Includes entries for Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, etc.

Changes in exchange rates were one disturbing factor. At the end of last December the dollar was quoted at 3.2510 Swiss francs.

However, Eurodollar bond prices have declined as well. At the beginning of the year, the bondrate index for long-term Eurodollar bonds was 91.89.

Thus for the Swiss investor the average loss on the currency and price of Eurodollar bonds could well range near 29 per cent.

Brokers' views

The approach of Christmas has done much to lighten the burden of woes upon the stock market investors, nor to lessen the weight of advice offered to them.

From Wood Mackenzie comes the Bank Annual, which includes earnings forecasts for all the major clearers. Midland Bank stands out well with prospective earnings of 50p a share on Wood's calculations.

Buckmaster & Moore reviews the prospects for the chemical industry which, it says, is now past the peak of its profits cycle.

Terry Byland

Keyser Ullmann interim today

Results this week are virtually confined to today—namely, the half-time figures of Keyser Ullmann merchant banking group.

Weekly list of fixed interest stocks

Table listing various fixed interest stocks with columns for Name, Price, and Yield. Includes entries like Alb & Wilson, Anglo Saxon, etc.

Whesoe's first priority to generate cash

Lord Erroll, chairman of Whesoe, says in his report the group's first priority will be to generate as much cash as possible.

No Milbury payment

With the United Kingdom economic scene in general a state of the household industry in particular remains 'very uncertain'.

Resign call to B'mouth BS directors

A suggestion that all eight directors of the Bournemouth & Christchurch Building Society...

Cheer from Wearwell

Revealing a rise in inter-branch profits from £40,600 to £42,000, the Wearwell clothing group...

Poole & Gladstone

Adjoining its annual 1974 until accounts for the period to December 31...

Freight report

Tanker owners confidently waiting for the oil majors to rush into the freight markets for tonnage to transport crude away from the producing areas...

Early on, rates hardened slightly in expectation, but that was all. Owners' greatest desire — enough demand to absorb the 10 million tons of tankers scheduled to ho in the Persian Gulf in the second half of the month — was not fulfilled.

A week previously, VLCCs booked from the Gulf to Europe were only managing Worldscale 32.5 (\$3.7 a ton), and there were reports that even less was paid.

Although still insufficient to pay the costs of a round trip, it was a step in the right direction. Now, however, there are fears that rates will gradually drift back down again and that moves into lay-up berths will accelerate.

Brokers, however, claim that it is still too early to suggest that some increased demand will not be felt, or that the oil companies are not playing on owners' nerves by holding out right up until the last minute.

More share prices

The following companies will be added to the London and Regional Share Price List tomorrow and will be published daily in Business News: Commercial and Industrial Lyles S. Ltd.

The Times Share Indices

Table showing various share indices like All-Share Index, Industrial Share Index, etc., with their respective values and changes.

A round of the Times Industrial Share Indices is given below:

Table showing Bank Base Rates for Barclays Bank, FNC, Hill Samuel, etc., with their respective rates.

Unit Trust Prices—change on the week

Large table listing various unit trusts with columns for Name, Price, and Change. Includes entries like Anshel United, British United, etc.

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F & C Group purchase

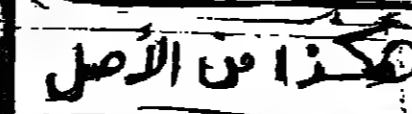
For an undisclosed amount of cash, the F. & C. Group of investment trusts has purchased a substantial minority stake in Exploration International, the holding company of exploration consultants.

Charter Trust repay all foreign loans

Reporting net earnings up from £607,000 to £607,000 for last year, Charter Trust & Agency says all its foreign currency loans have now been repaid.

LEGAL NOTICES

Multiple legal notices including 'In the Matter of Midland No 1000', 'In the Matter of Midland No 1001', etc., detailing court proceedings and company matters.





CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING STARTS HERE! To place an advertisement in any of our classified sections...

DEATHS WETHERALL—On December 21st, 1974, the birthday peacefully...

DEATHS WETHERALL—On December 21st, 1974, the birthday peacefully...

PERSONAL COLUMNS Classified Advertisement Department CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY This office will be closed on 25th December...

ANNOUNCEMENTS CANCER RESEARCH DESERVE YOUR SUPPORT The Imperial Cancer Research Fund will use your money to achieve the best results...

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS A WINTER YOU'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER WITH SOVEREIGN HOLIDAYS Why not make Christmas a special occasion...

WIRE NO. 1 LOWEST RELIABLE DISCOUNT SCHEDULED AIRFARES Why not make Christmas a special occasion...

CARPETS EXHIBITION (20-30p per sq. yd.) Ideal Home/Olympia/Film Here a million pounds worth of new carpets...

RESISTA CARPETS LTD London's leading specialists in main, Wiltons and Corals from £1.49 sq. yd.

CONSORT PIONEERS OF CHEAP TRAVEL BETWEEN LONDON AND SPAIN Overland motorway express to BARCELONA and ALICANTE

PSYCHOLOGIST / PSYCHIATRIST P. J. Mohr has helped thousands of people overcome lack of confidence...

BIRTHS EADEN—On December 21st, at 12, Gillingham Road, London, a son, James Alexander Eaden...

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THE HOUSE OF STEINER WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL THEIR FRIENDS AND CHRISTMAS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

BEST VALUE IN FARES Why not make Christmas a special occasion...

SWIMMING POOL Why not make Christmas a special occasion...

RENTALS FURNISHED PROPERTY FERRIER & DAVIES, 101-103, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.1P. 0AG.

MARRIAGES BALLINGAL—DALRYMPLE—On 21st December, 1974, at St. John's Church, London, the marriage of...

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THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUILDING TRADES EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION... LONDON SHEDNETTA wishes to thank...

TRAVELAIR INTERNATIONAL... TICKETS TO MOST DESTINATIONS... MALTA, island of beauty and sunshine...

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ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY 67 SHADOW Superior in the Range... OFFERS FOR SALE

DEATHS ATCHLEY—On December 20th, at 10, Atchley Road, London, a son, James Alexander Atchley...

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RESTAURANTS AND ENJOY SUPPER ENTERTAINMENT STAR CASABLANCA NIGHTLY Starting 8.15pm

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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 13,875. A grid of numbers for a crossword puzzle.

HE'S LUCKY (we found him) Dave 16 - from a broken home. Then - in London - no job, no prospects...

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS RIDING IN ALGARVE is unbeatable. Why not make Christmas a special occasion...

INTERCEPTOR INTERCEPTED This advertisement, booked on our economical series plan...

FOR SALE AND WANTED VICTORIAN BRASS BED... VICTORIAN HOUSEHOLD SCHOLES... VICTORIAN GRASS BED...

FLAT SHARING SHARE-A-FLAT scheme... SITUATIONS WANTED MIMO, OCEANIC... RENTALS MARBLE ARCH